

BRAVEHEARTS



# TIPU SULTAN

THE TIGER OF MYSORE

Vol 741 | ₹50

## TIPU SULTAN

Tipu Sultan died as he had lived – a free man. A childhood spent watching and helping in his father's campaigns had made him a shrewd general. From his father he also inherited courage and a sense of honour and, most importantly, the determination to oust the British from Indian soil. But this noble 18th-century warrior had no weapon against treachery.

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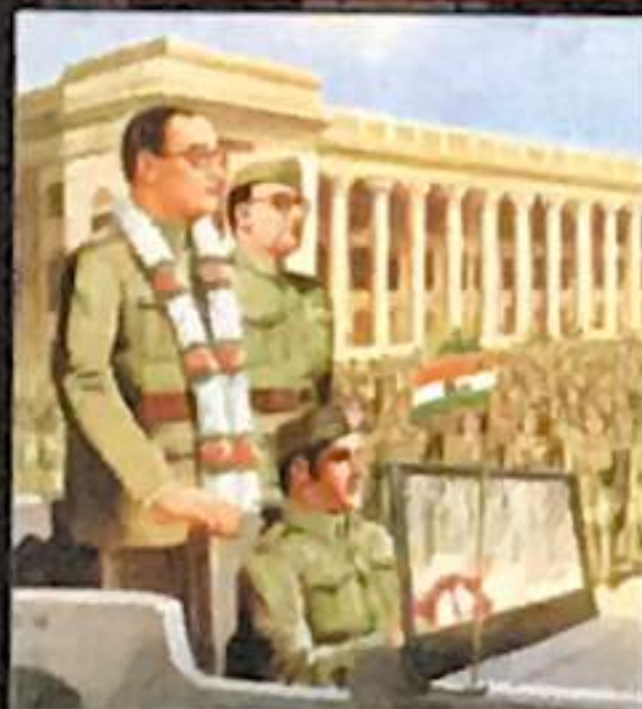
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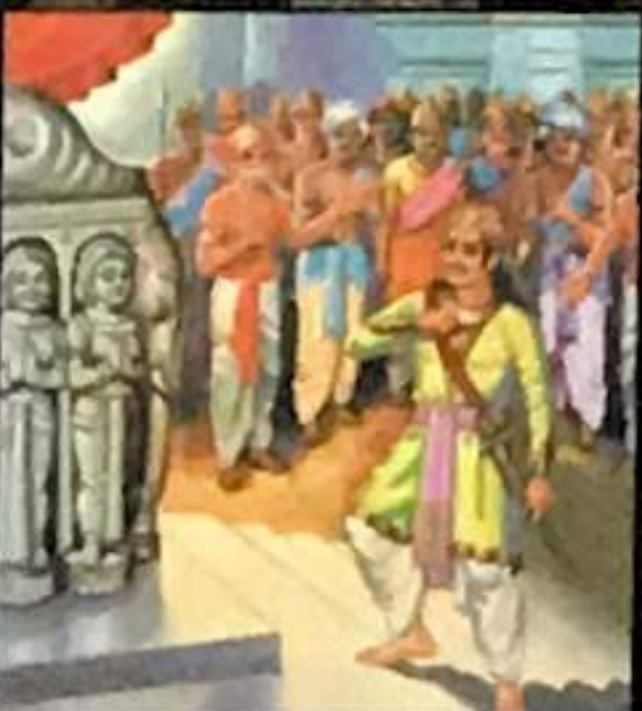
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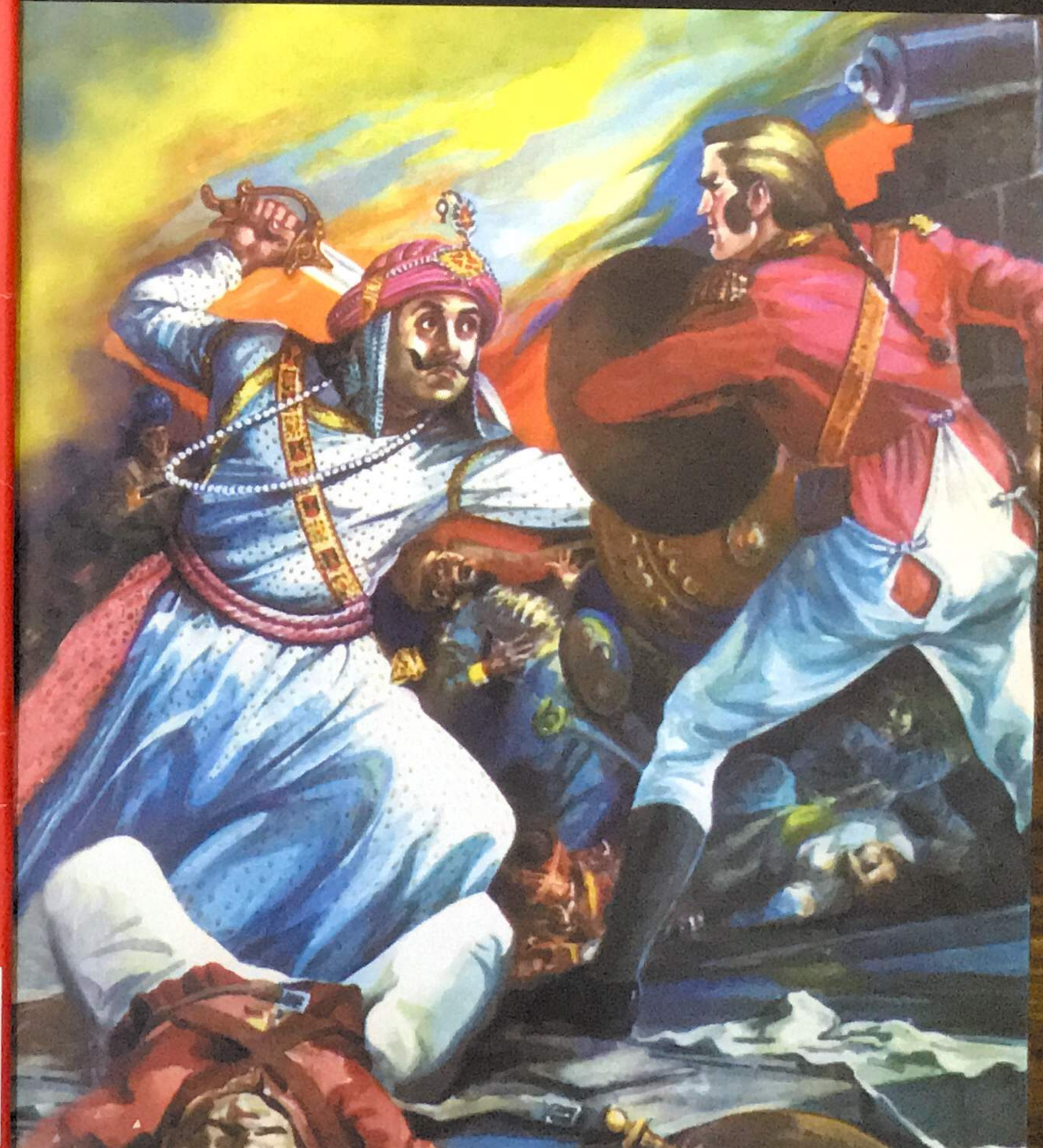
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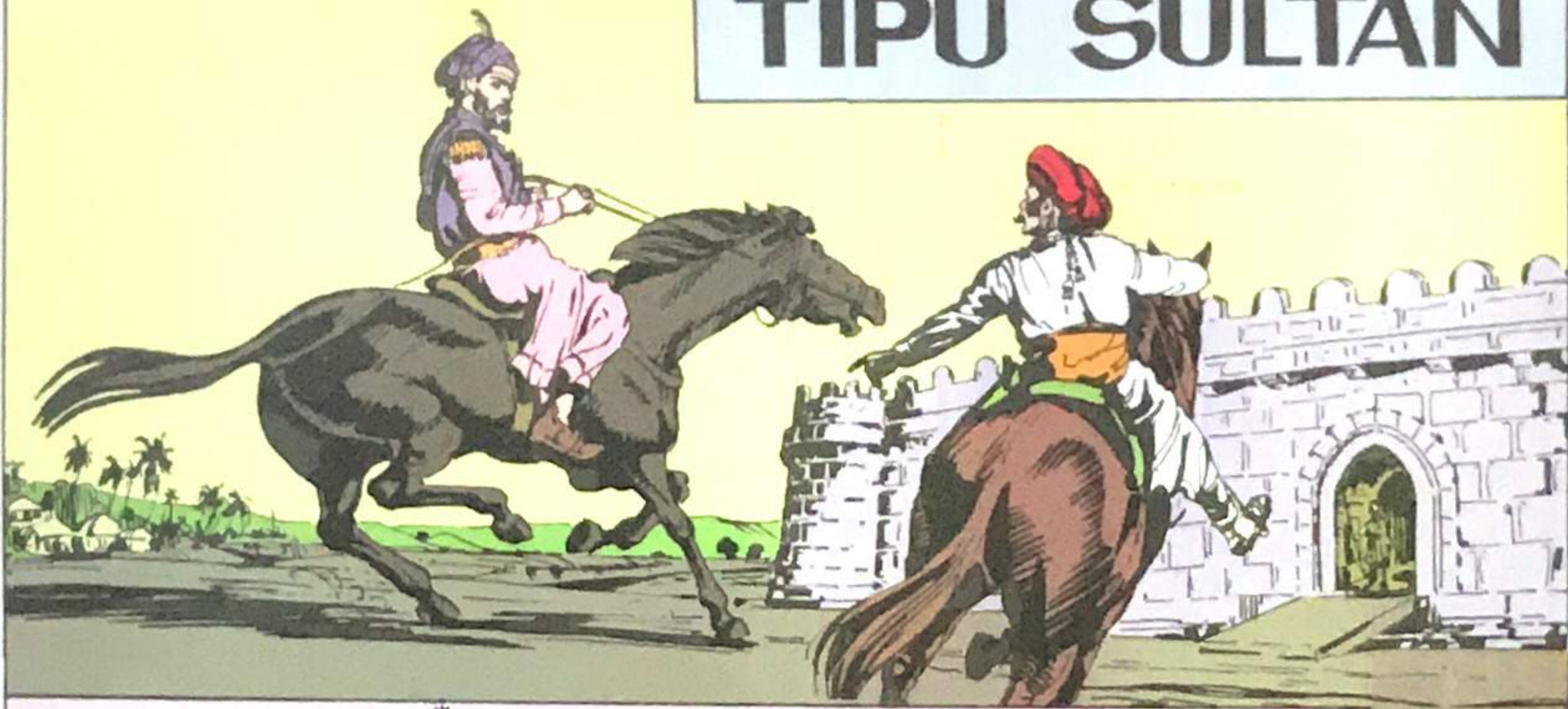


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# TIPU SULTAN



PLACE: DEVANAHALLI.\* YEAR: 1750. HAIDAR ALI, AN OFFICER OF THE MYSORE ARMY, WAS RETURNING HOME WITH HIS TRUSTED FRIEND, KHANDE RAO, AFTER A SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN.

AS HAIDAR ALI RODE UP TO HIS HOME, HE WAS GREETED WITH GOOD NEWS—

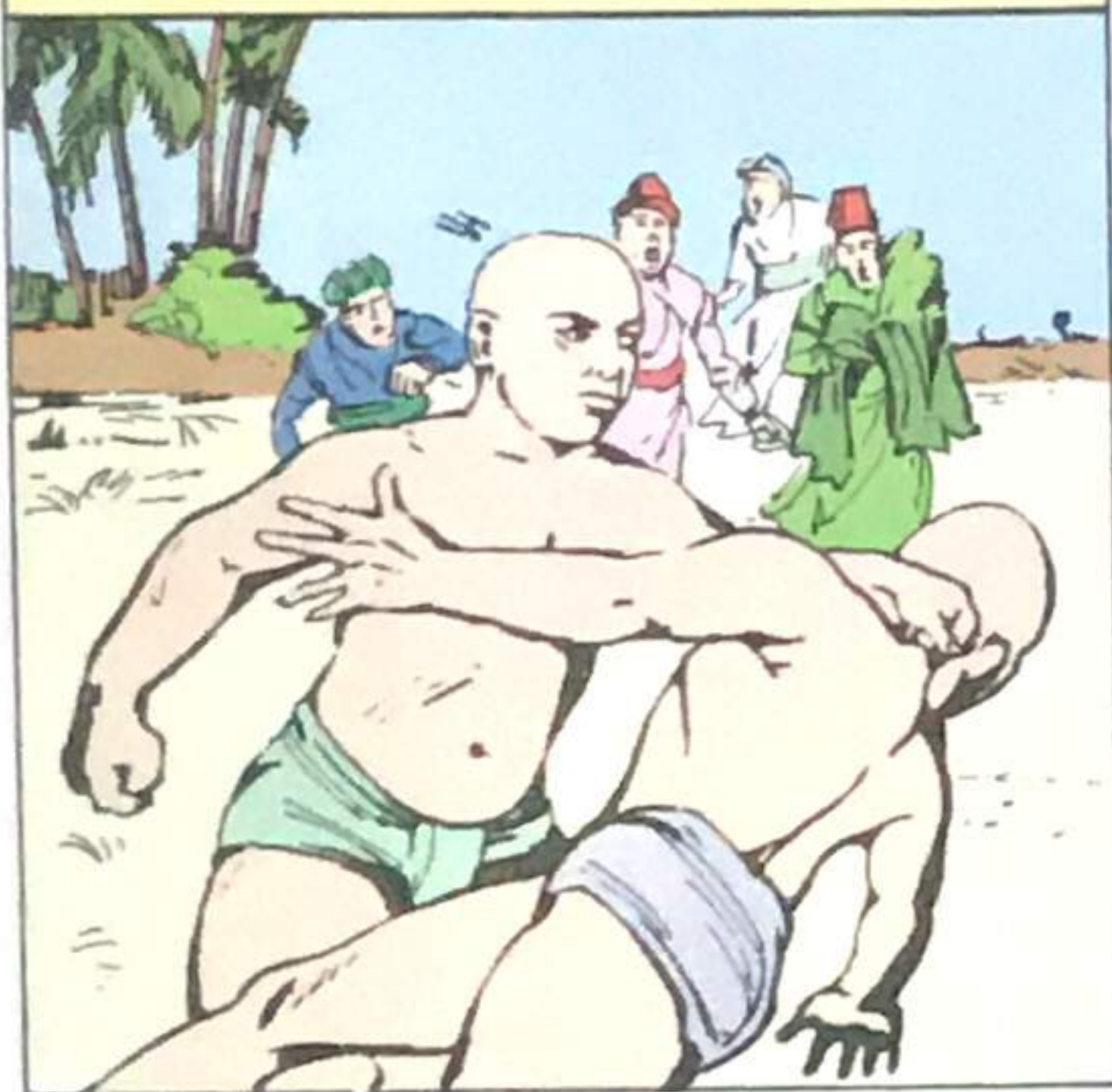




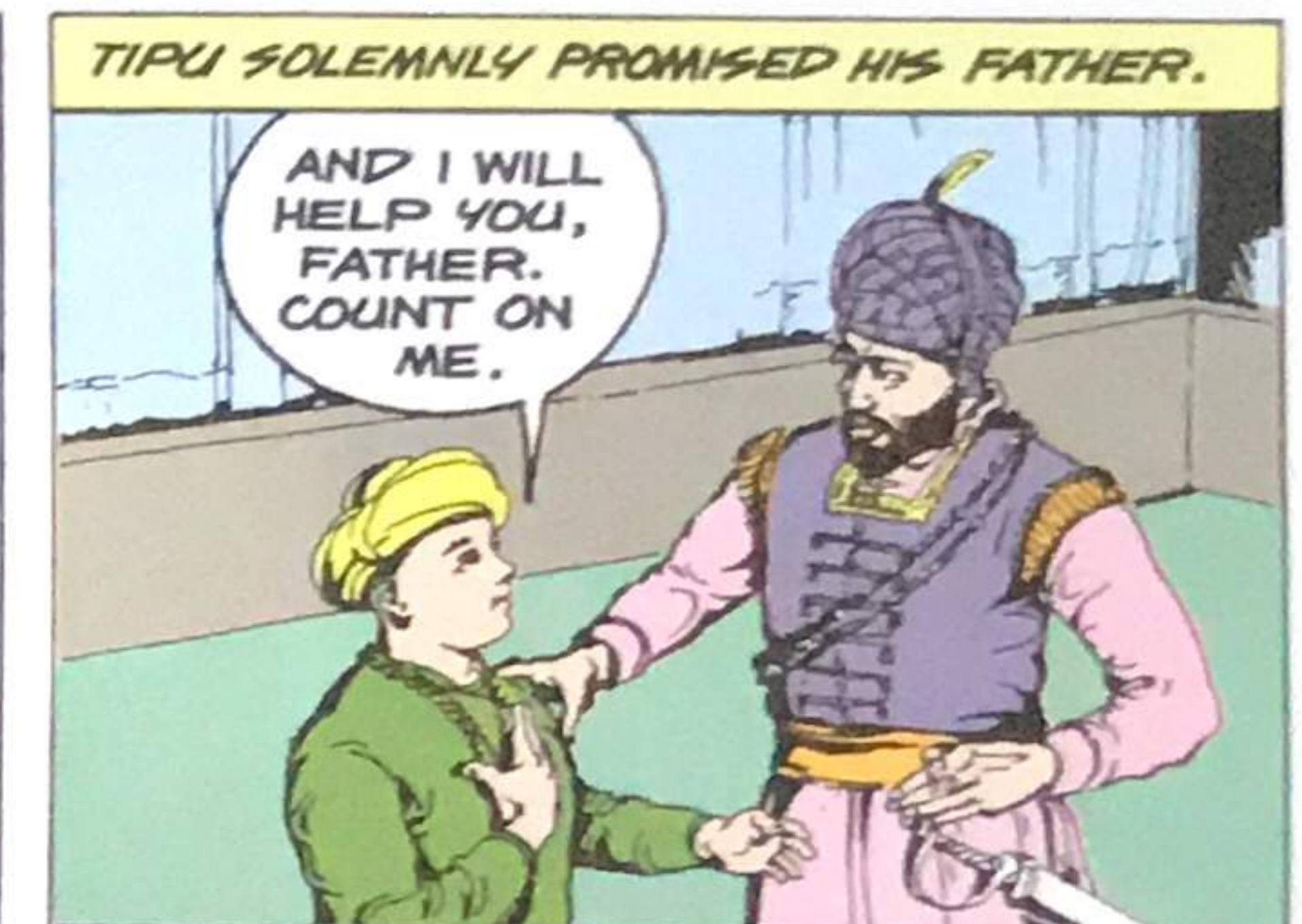
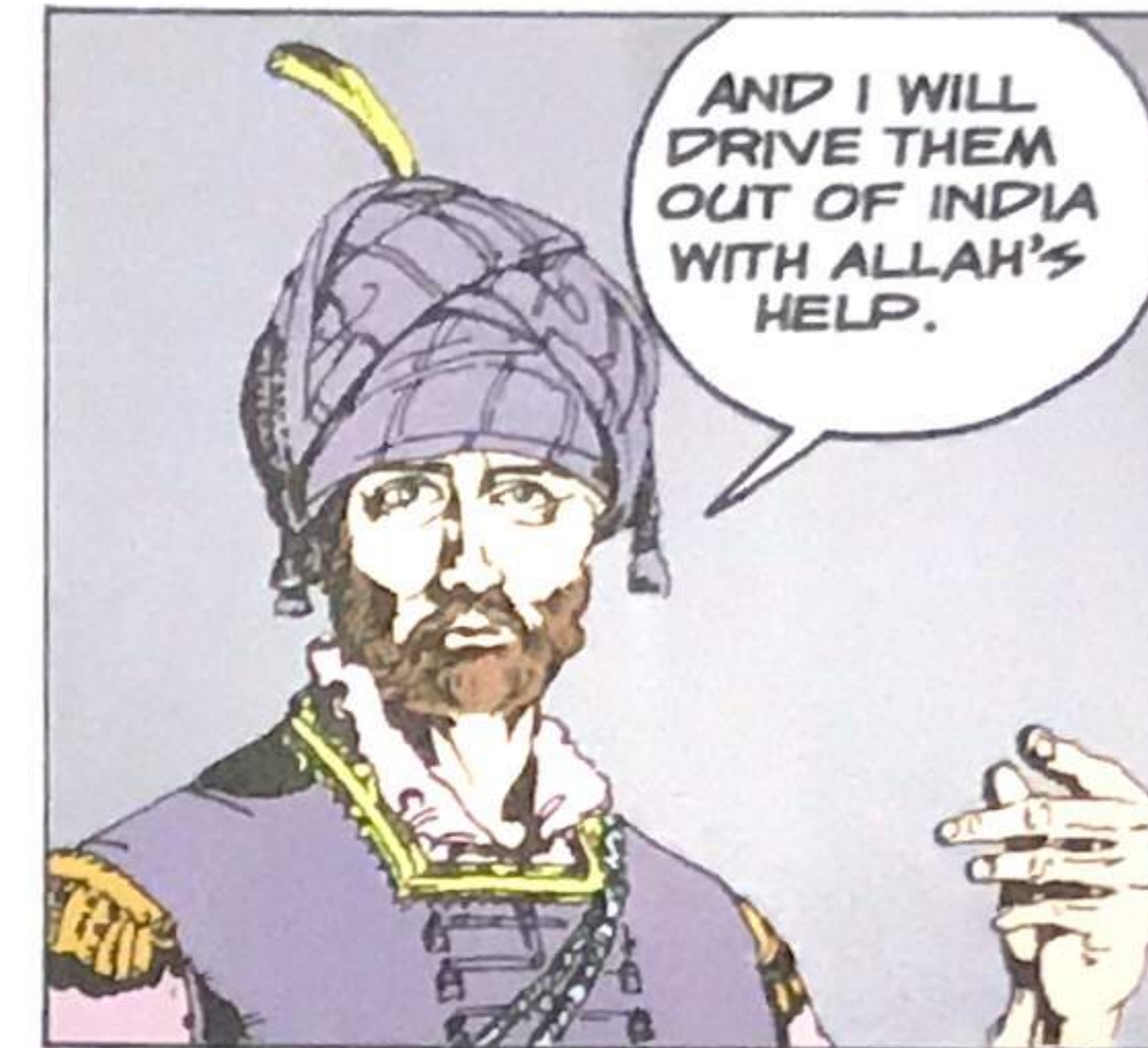
THE BOY WAS NAMED TIPU SULTAN. HE SPENT HIS CHILDHOOD AT DINDIGUL, WHERE HAIDAR WAS APPOINTED COMMANDER.



TIPU DIDN'T AGREE. SO —



HAIDAR HAD TO GO ON FREQUENT EXPEDITIONS AGAINST ERRING FEUDAL CHIEFS. ON ONE SUCH OCCASION —



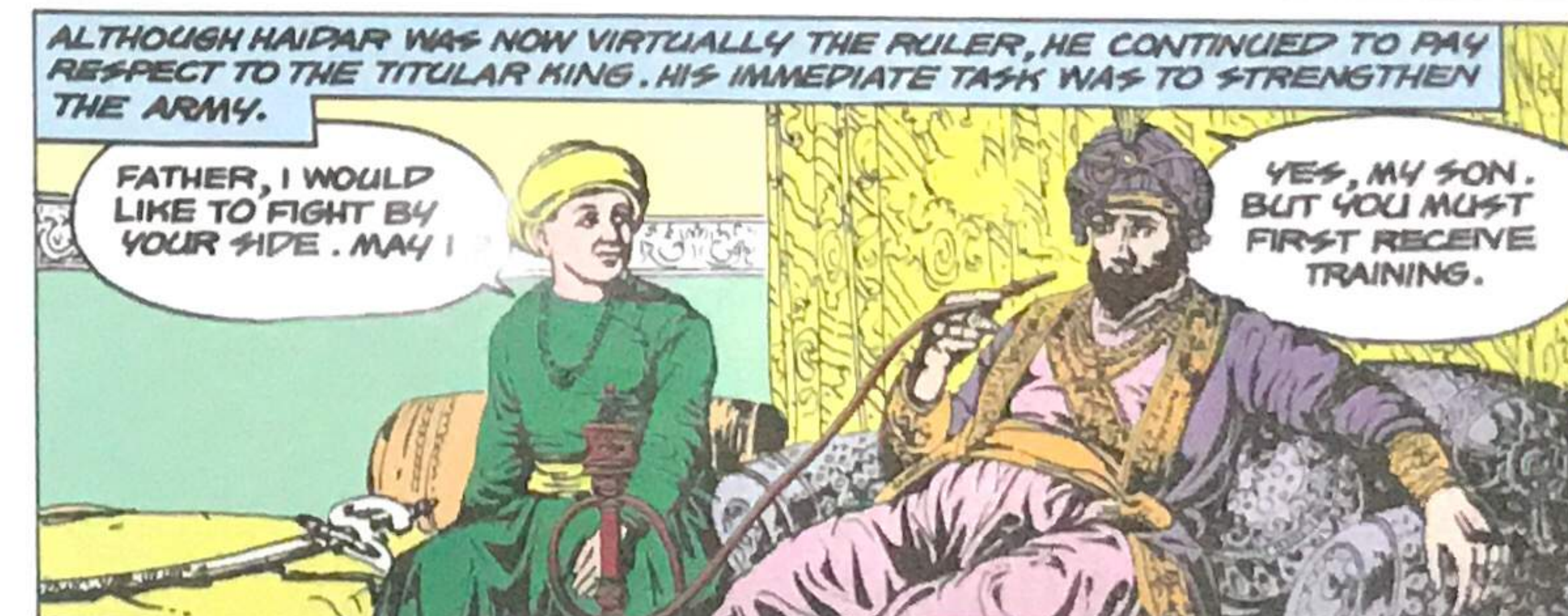
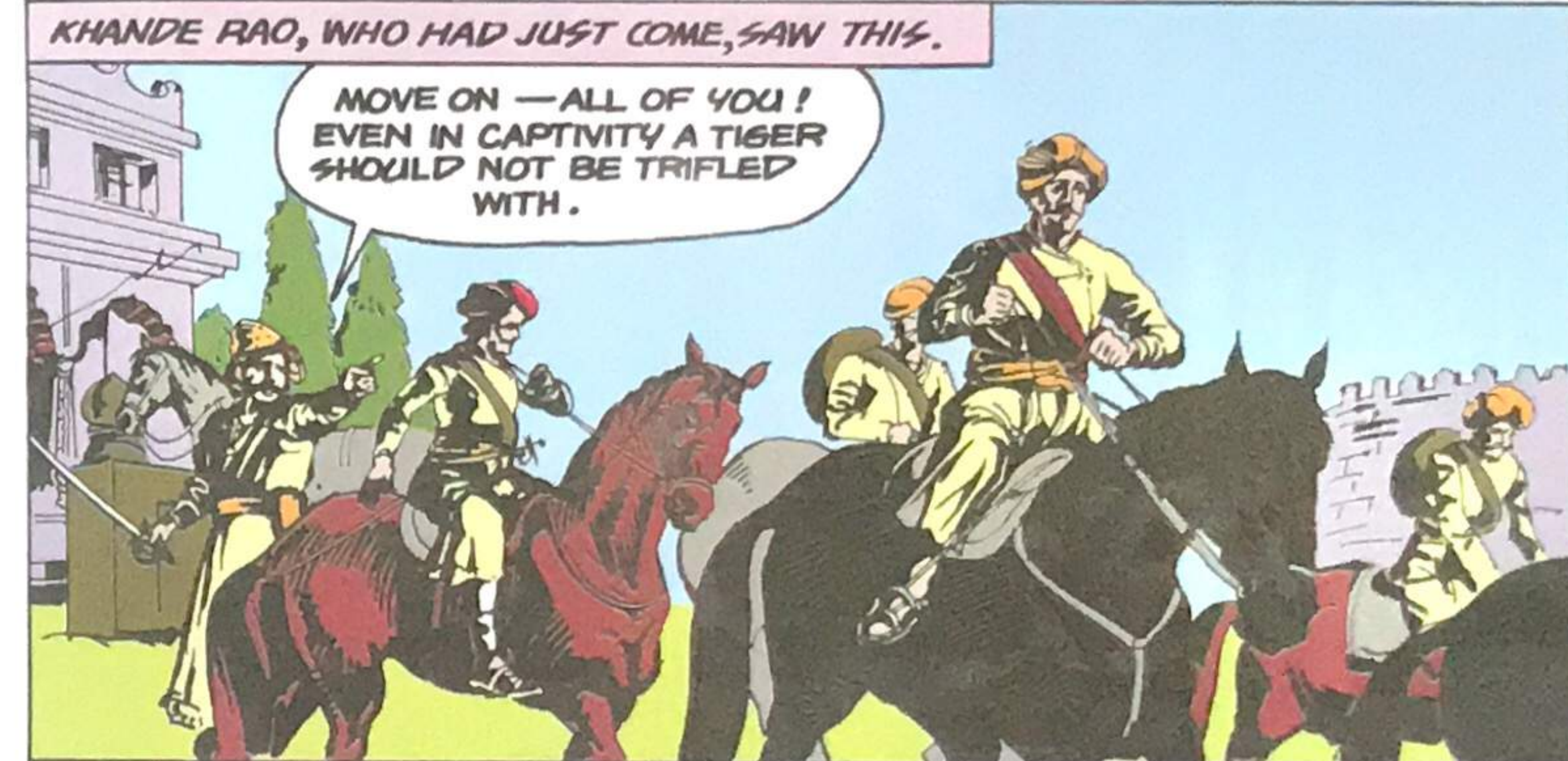
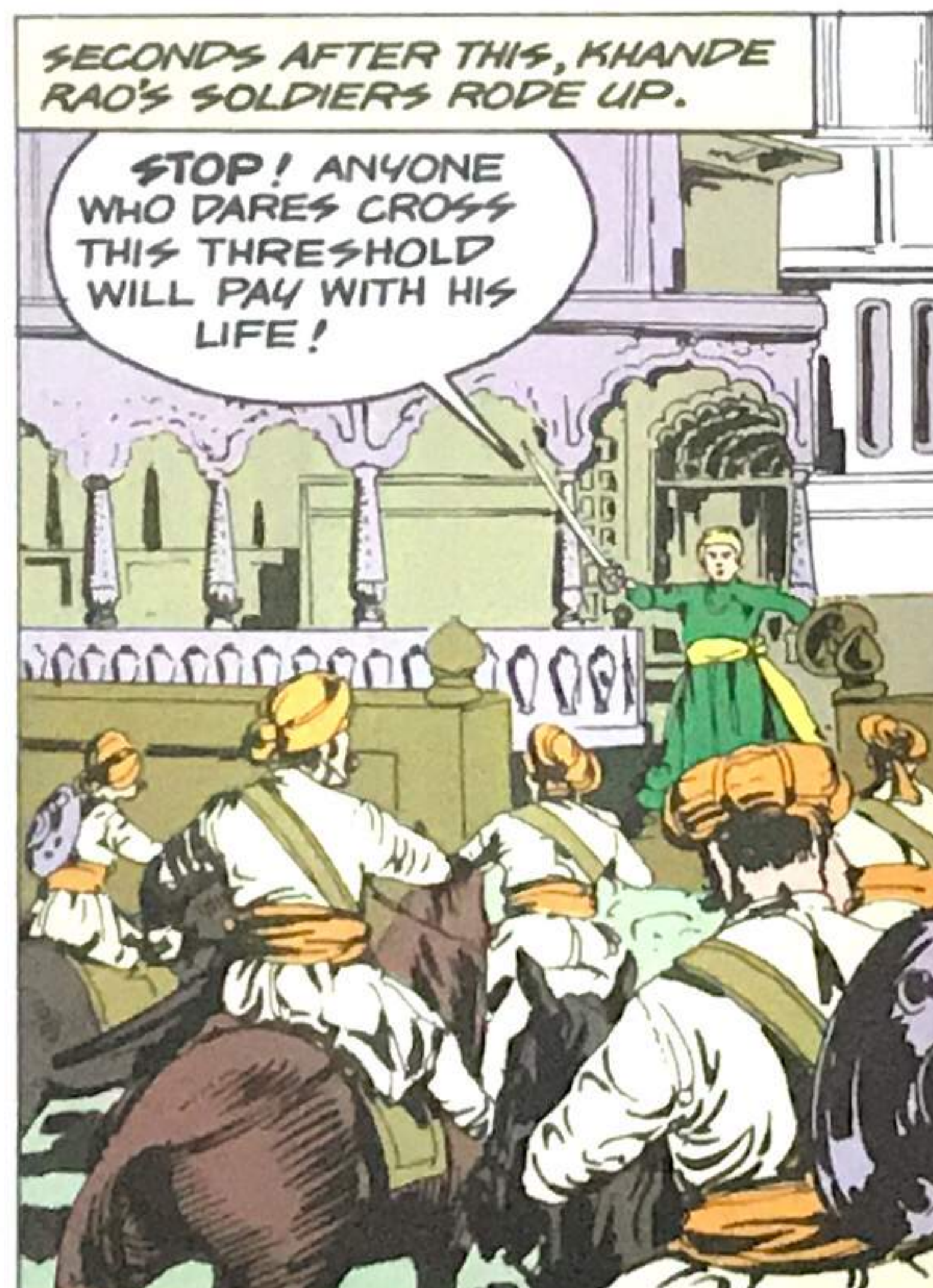
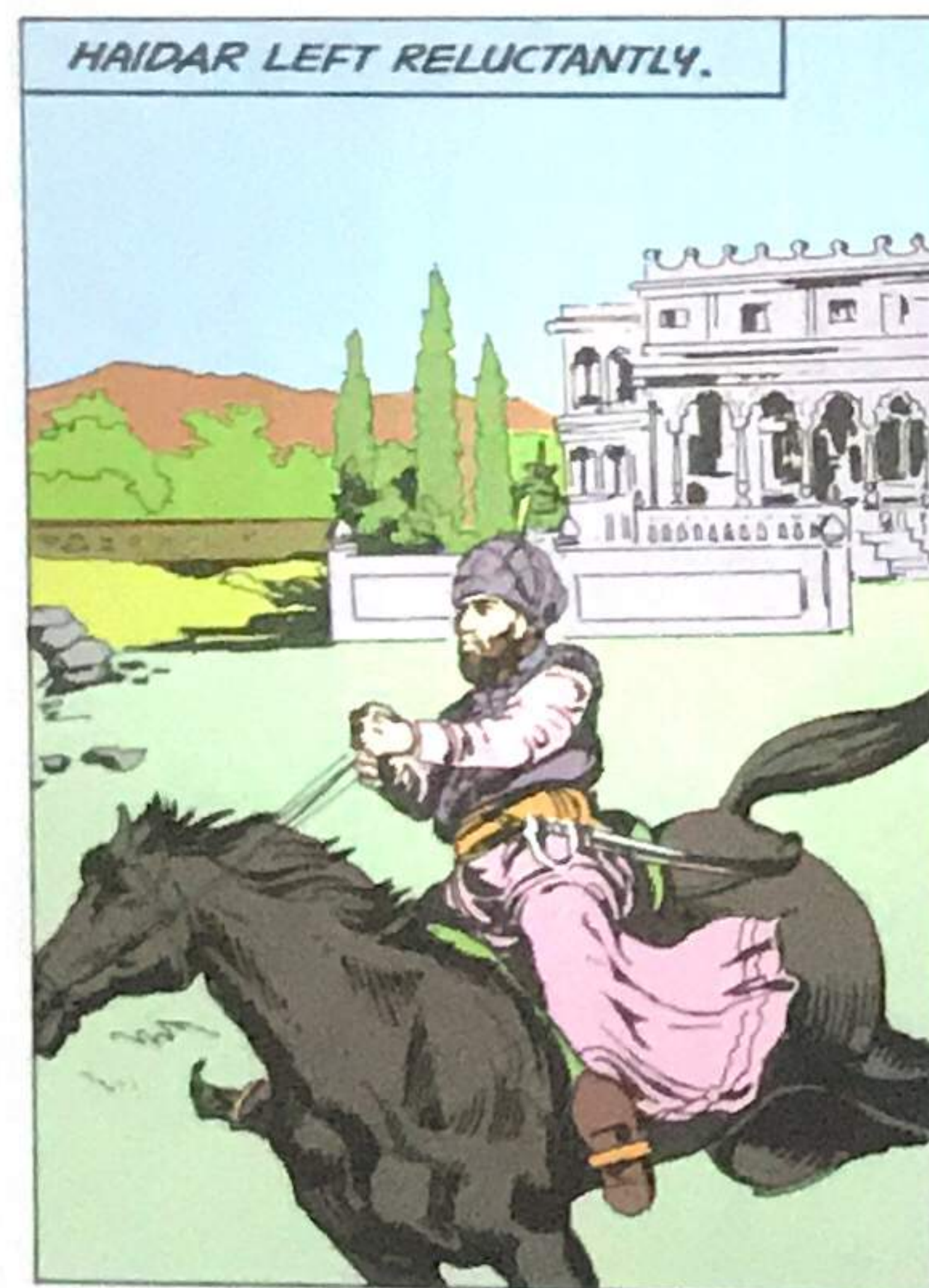
WHEN TIPU WAS TEN YEARS OLD, HAIDAR LEFT FOR THE CAPITAL, SRIRANGA PATTANA, TO ASSUME COMMAND OF THE STATE ARMY.



AT THE CAPITAL HAIDAR FORCED THE DALWAI, NANJARAJ, TO RETIRE AND ASSUMED THE POST HIMSELF. BUT HIS SUCCESS WAS SHORT-LIVED. TROUBLE CAME FROM AN UNEXPECTED QUARTER.









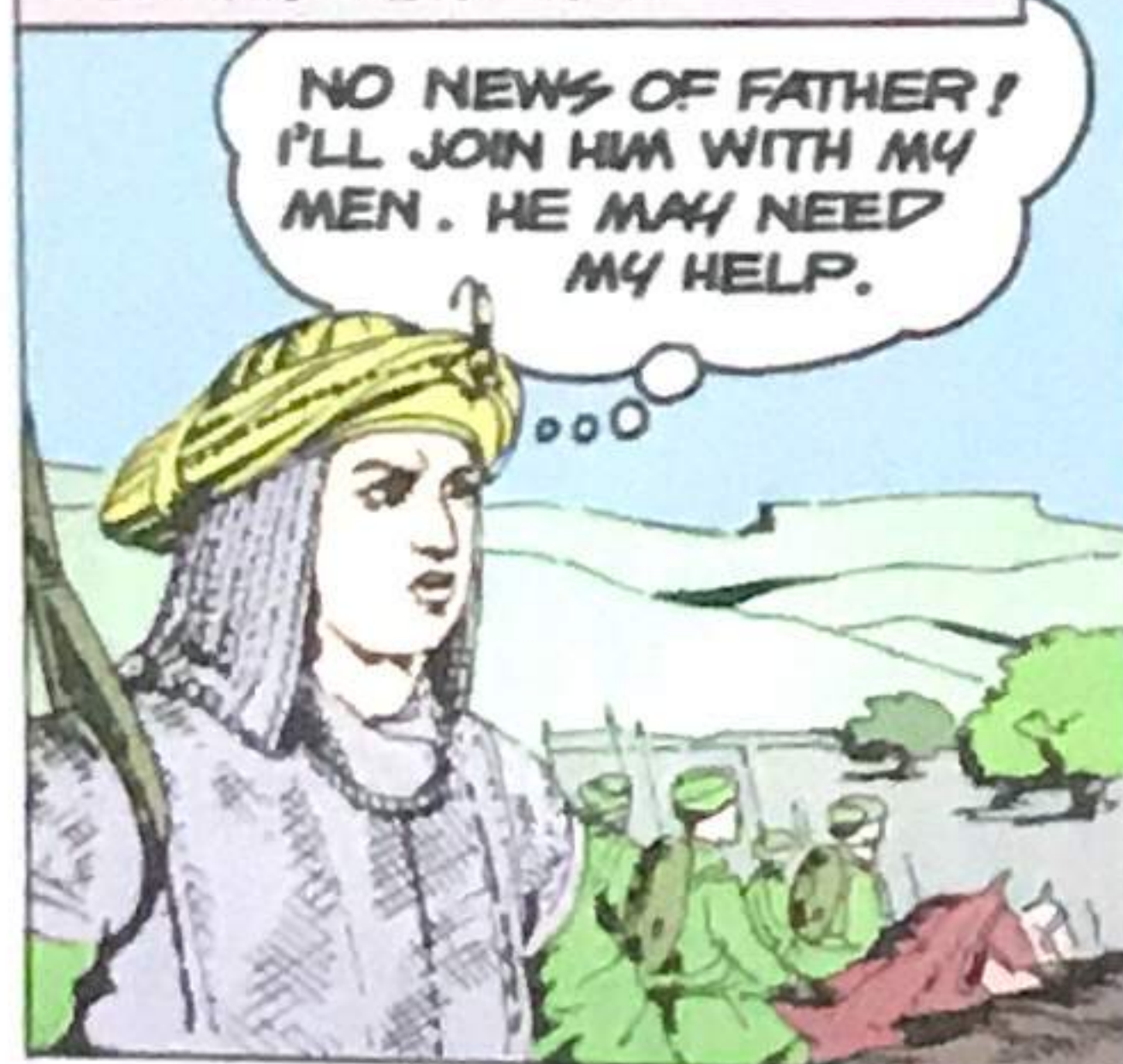
TIPU WAS SENT TO BIDANUR WHERE HE BEGAN HIS TRAINING. HE ALSO LEARNT PERSIAN, ARABIC, KANNADA AND SANSKRIT.



TIPU WAS JUST FIFTEEN WHEN HE HAD HIS FIRST TASTE OF WAR. HE ACCOMPANIED HIS FATHER IN A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE RULER OF BALAM.\*



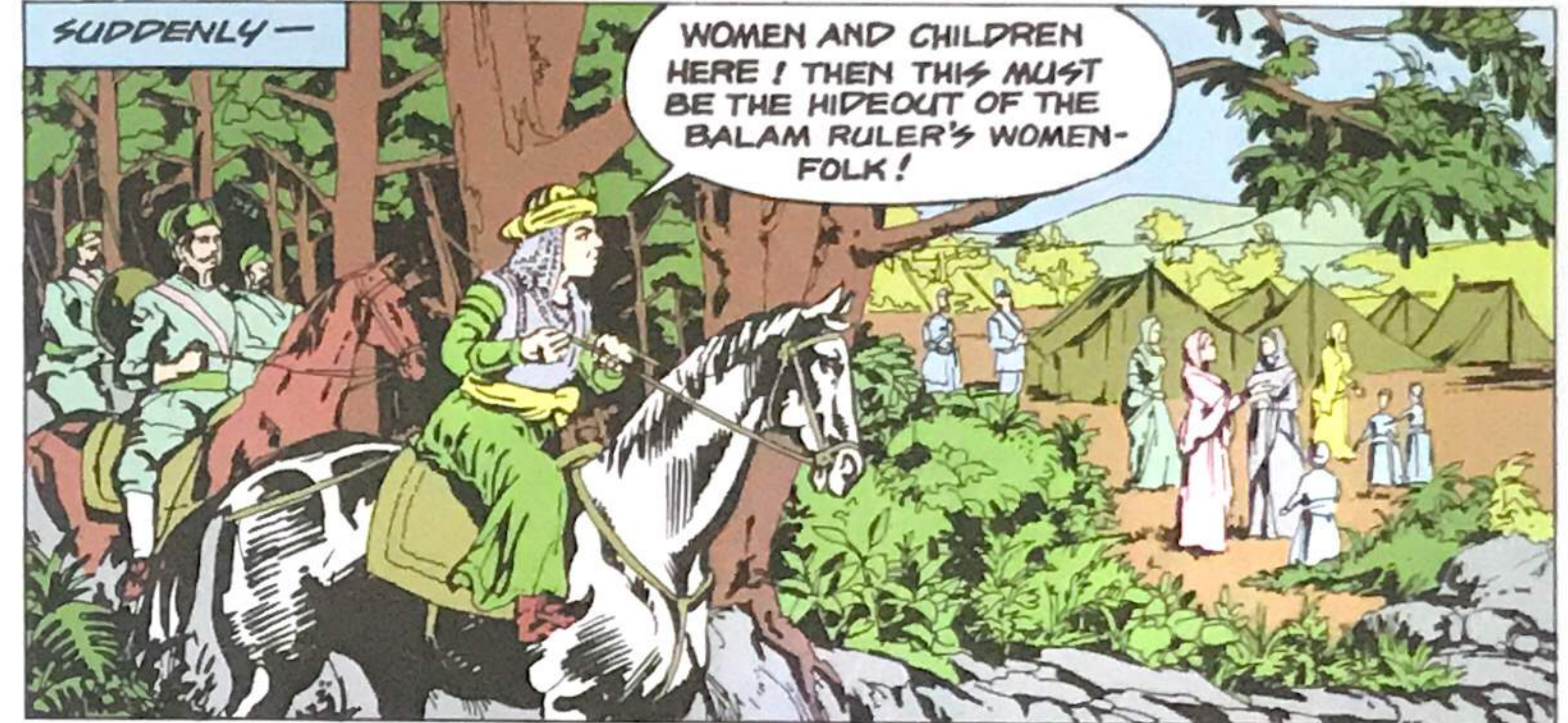
HAIIDAR RODE AWAY, WHILE TIPU WAITED IMPATIENTLY FOR HIS RETURN.



AVOIDING THE DIRECT ROUTE, HE LED HIS MEN THROUGH THE FOREST.



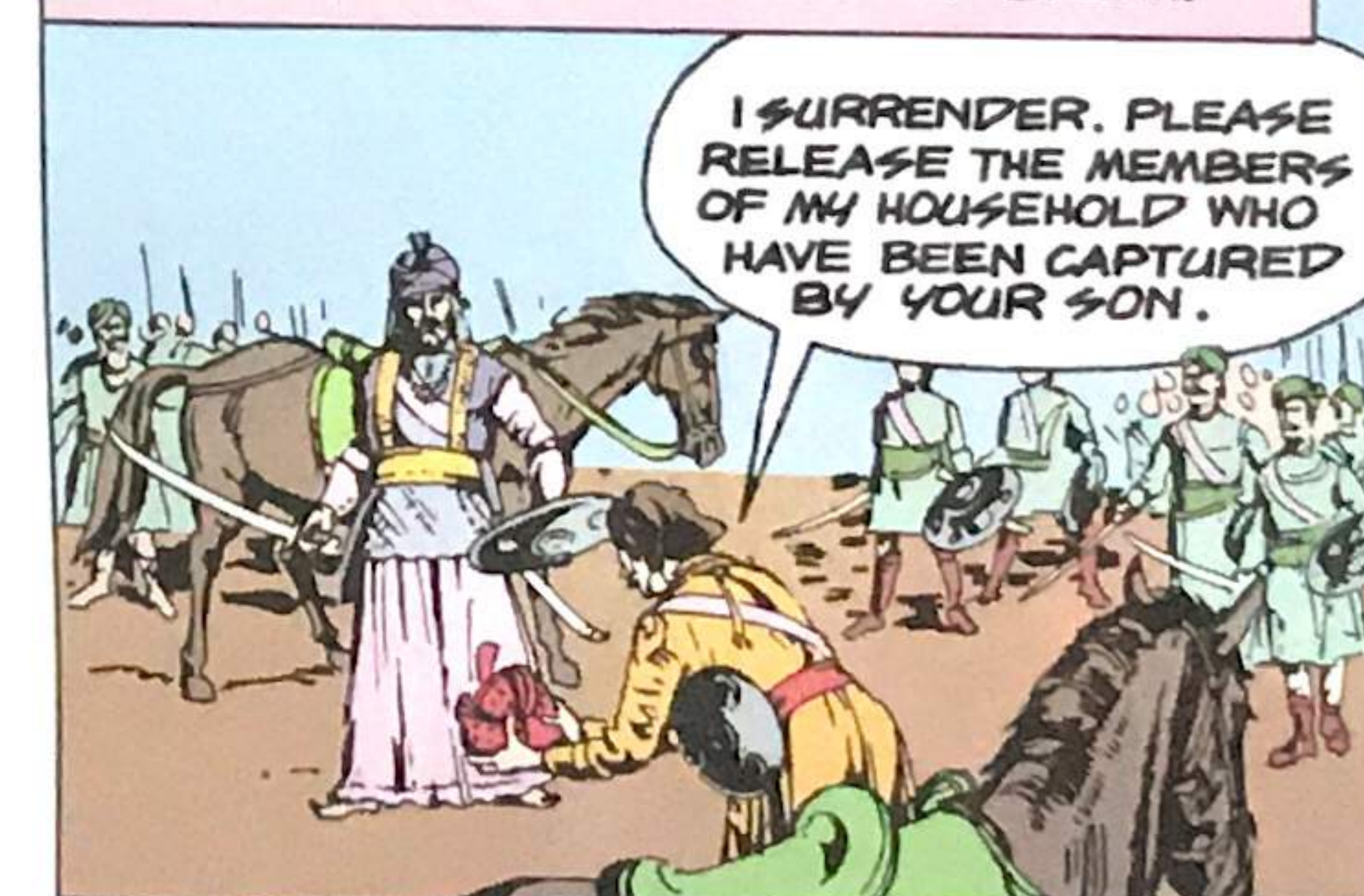
SUDDENLY —



HE HAD THEM SURROUNDED AND TAKEN CAPTIVE.



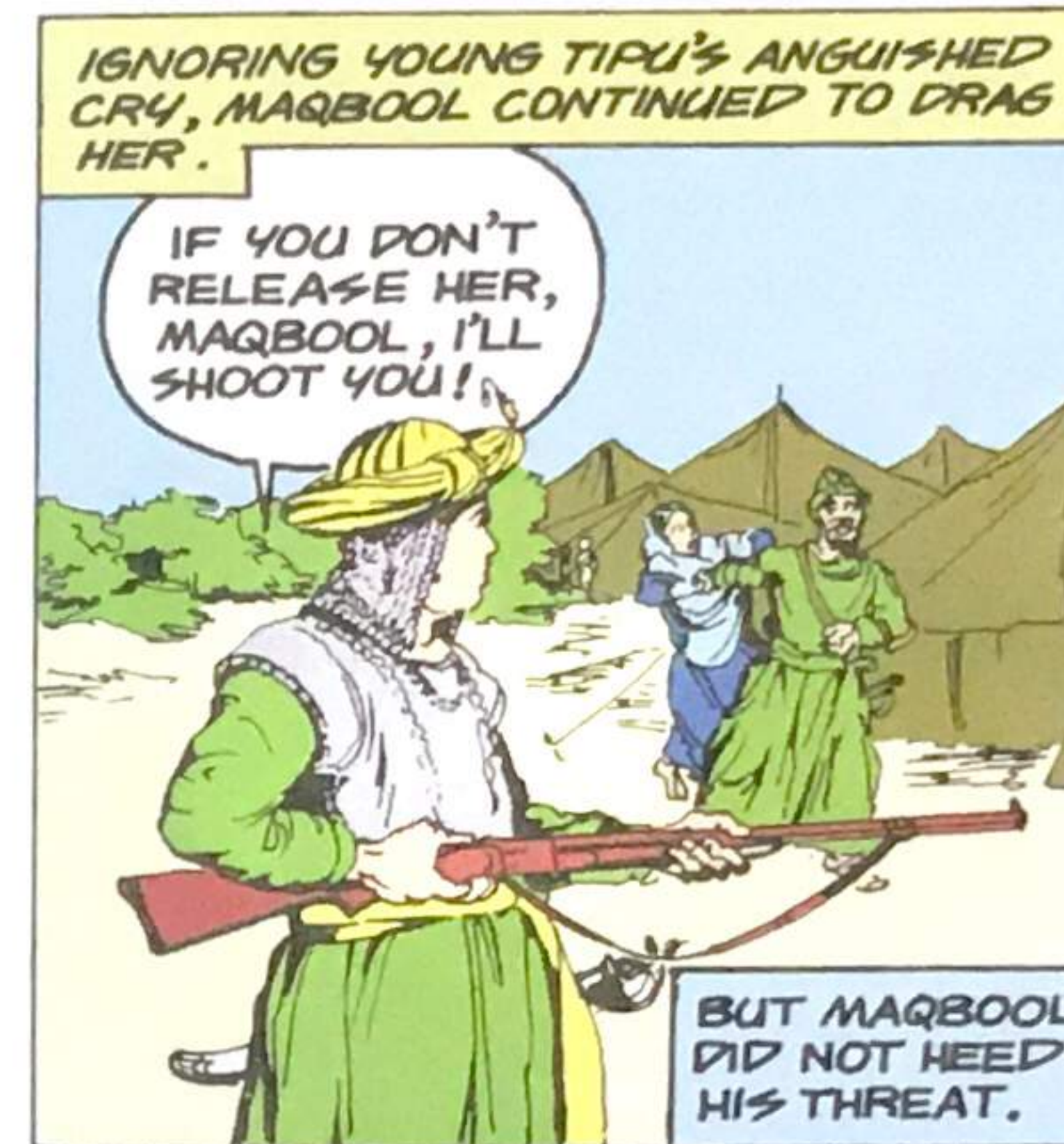
WHEN THE NEWS OF THE CAPTURE OF HIS HAREM REACHED THE RULER OF BALAM —



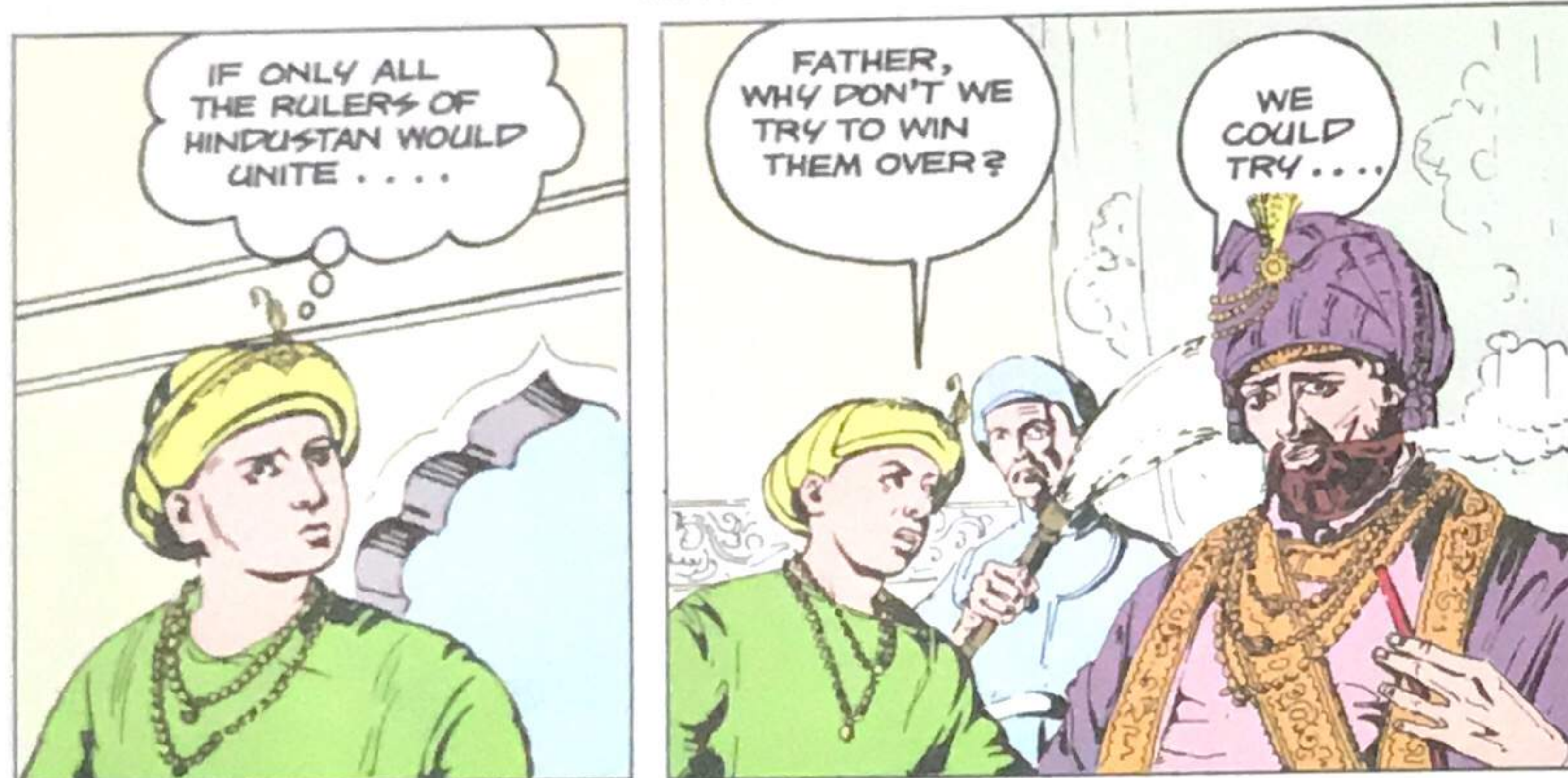
HAIIDAR WAS PERPLEXED.







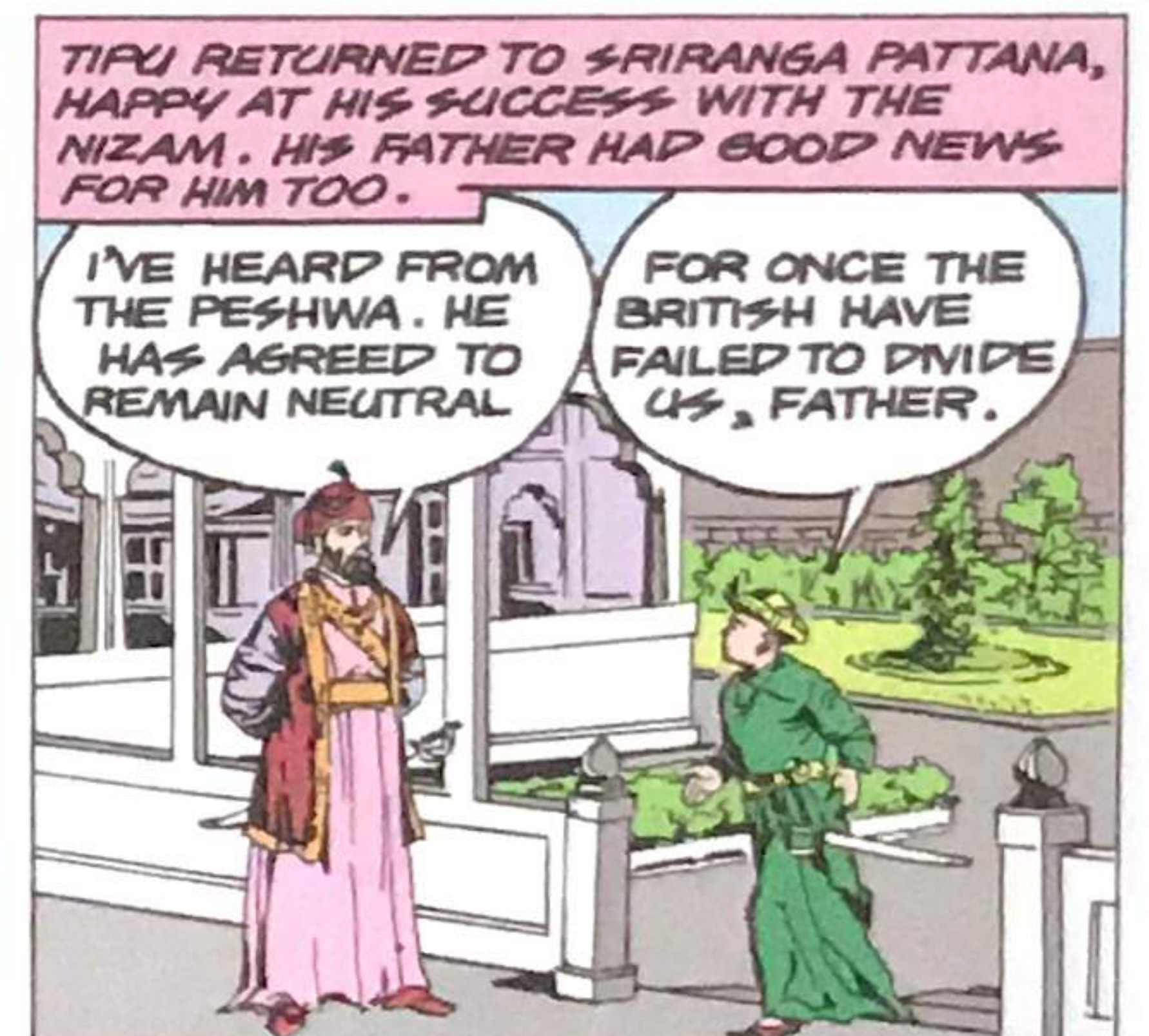




HAIDAR OPENED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE NIZAM AND WON HIM OVER. HE SENT TIPU TO THE NIZAM'S CAMP TO SIGN THE TREATY.



THE NIZAM RECEIVED HIM WITH COURTESY.

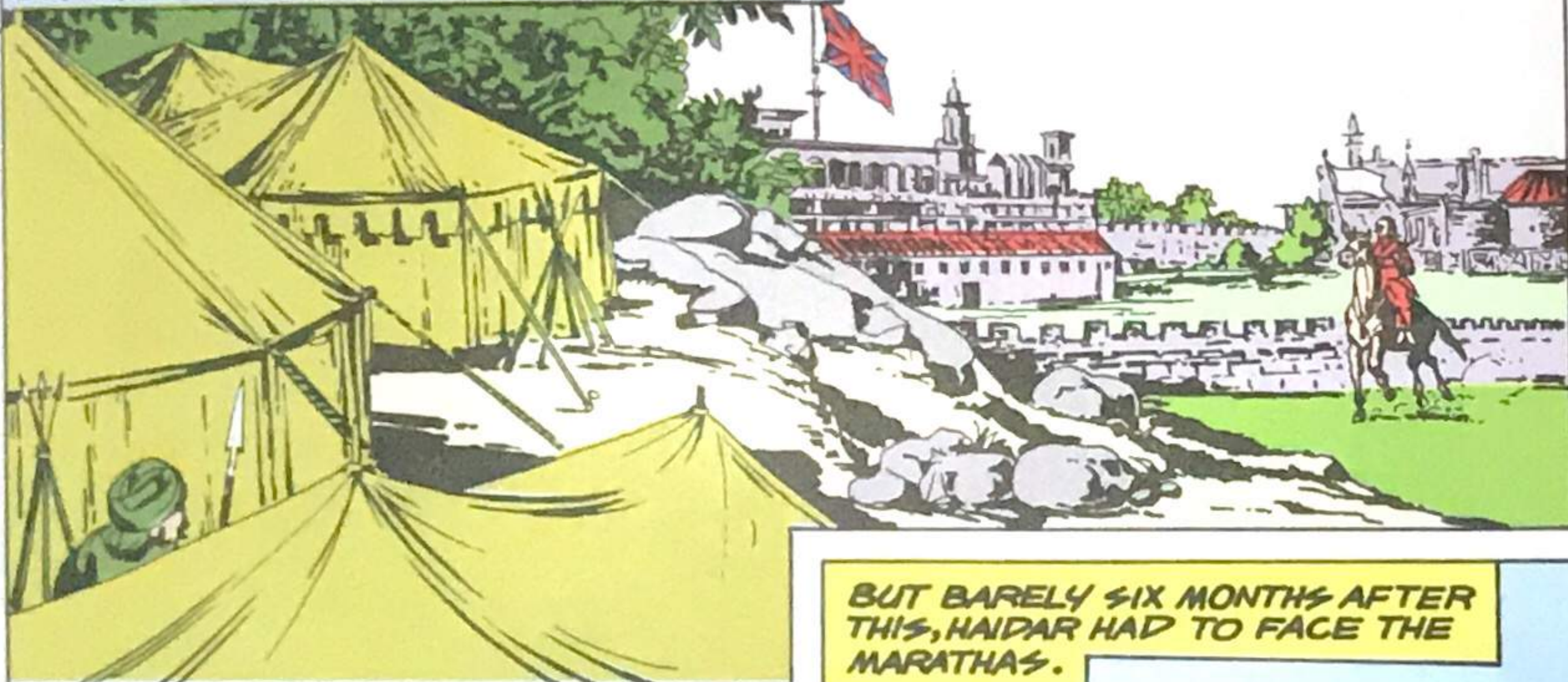


A FIERCE WAR WHICH WENT ON FOR TWO YEARS ENSUED WITH THE BRITISH.





ALTHOUGH THE FICKLE NIZAM WITHDREW HIS SUPPORT, HAIDAR ADVANCED STEADILY AND ULTIMATELY REACHED THE VERY GATES OF MADRAS, THE BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN SOUTH INDIA.



BUT BARELY SIX MONTHS AFTER THIS, HAIDAR HAD TO FACE THE MARATHAS.

THERE HAIDAR DICTATED HIS PEACE TERMS TO THE BRITISH.

WE ACCEPT YOUR CONDITIONS.

IN THAT CASE, HOSTILITIES WILL CEASE AT ONCE.



HAIDAR WAS BEATEN AND HAD TO FLEE WITH THE MAIN ARMY.

FOR A WHILE TIPU, WITH A SMALL BAND OF MEN, TRIED TO HOLD THE MARATHAS AT BAY.



BUT IT WAS OF NO USE. A LITTLE LATER —

PRINCE, LET US ESCAPE BEFORE WE ARE OVER-POWERED.

ALL RIGHT, SAYYID.



TIPU AND SAYYID MUHAMMED RODE AWAY SWIFTLY, LEAVING THE PURSUING ENEMY FAR BEHIND.



MEANWHILE HAIDAR, WHO HAD MANAGED TO REACH THE CAPITAL, WAS PRAYING.

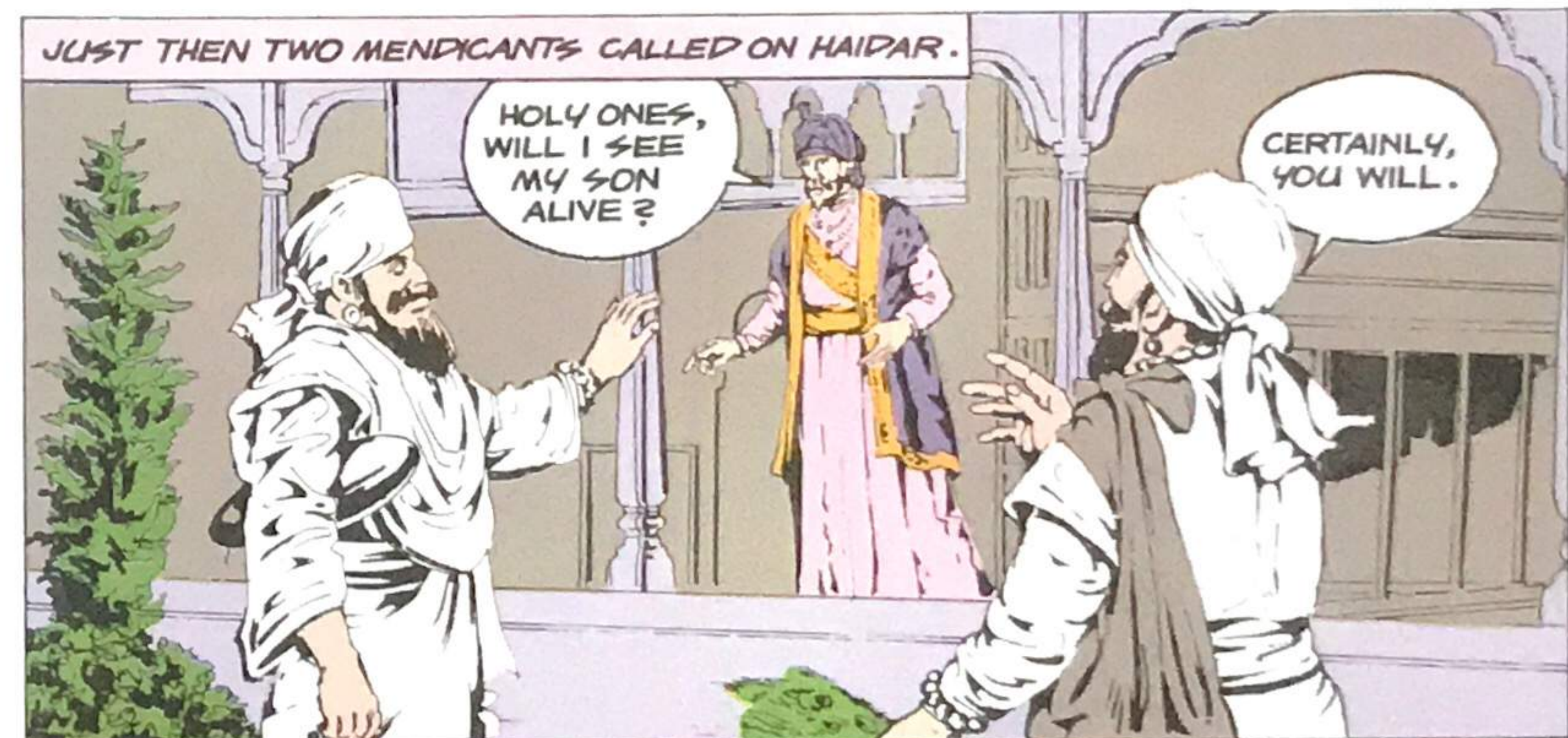
ALLAH, TAKE CARE OF TIPU. KEEP HIM SAFE FROM HARM.



JUST THEN TWO MENDICANTS CALLED ON HAIDAR.

HOLY ONES, WILL I SEE MY SON ALIVE?

CERTAINLY, YOU WILL.



THE NEXT MOMENT —

MY SON!



LATER HAIDAR REGAINED THE TERRITORIES LOST TO THE MARATHAS.



ALL WAS QUIET FOR A WHILE. DURING THIS PERIOD TIPU GOT MARRIED. ONE DAY TIPU AND A FRENCH CAPTAIN, WHO WAS EMPLOYED BY HAIDAR TO TRAIN HIS SOLDIERS, WERE RETURNING FROM A HUNTING EXPEDITION.



AS THE FRENCHMAN PREPARED TO SHOOT —

STOP! WE DON'T HUNT TIGERS THAT WAY IN HINDUSTAN. LEAVE HIM TO ME.



EVEN AS THE TIGER PREPARED TO POUNCE UPON HIM, TIPU DREW HIS SWORD.



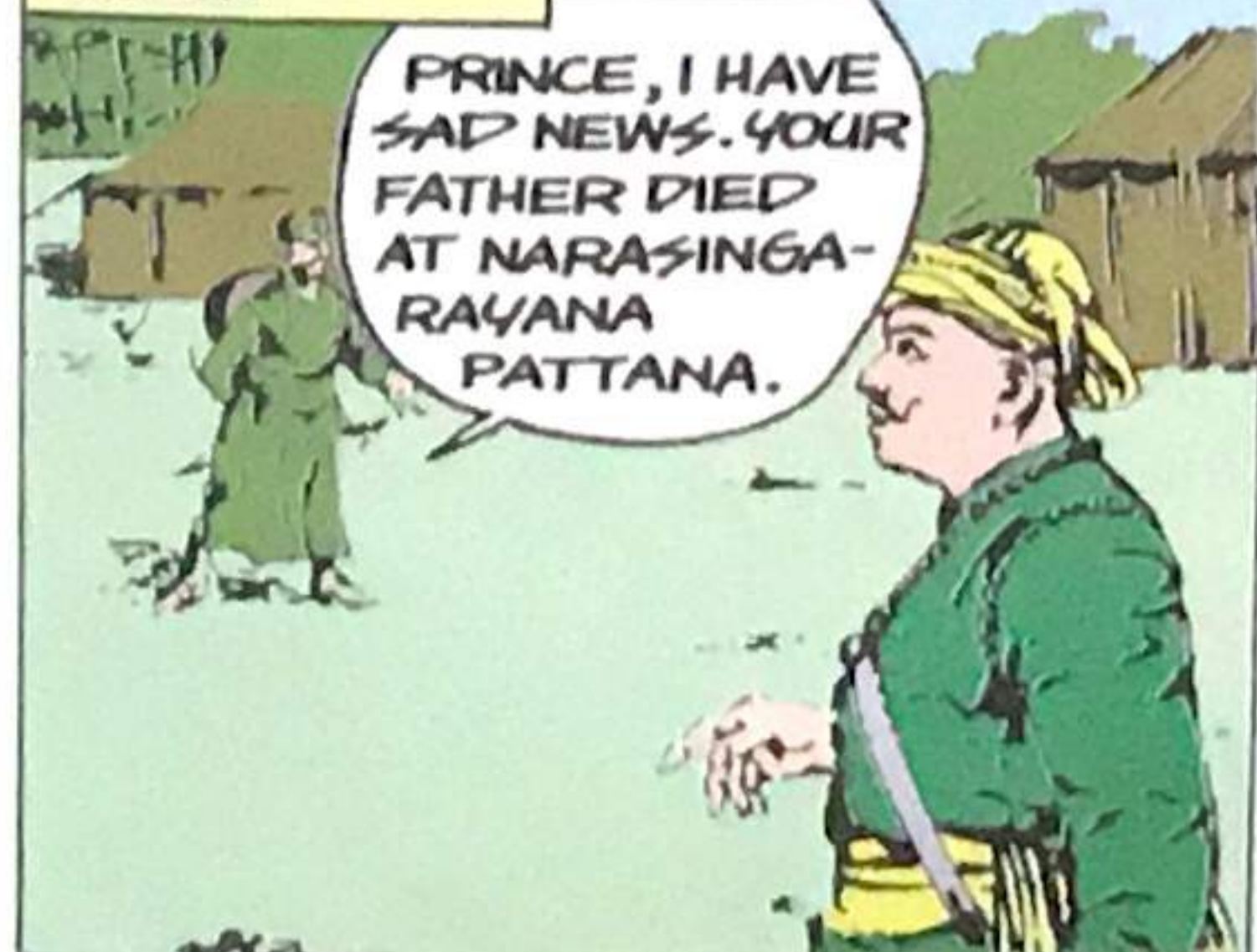
THE SLAIN TIGER WAS TAKEN OUT IN A PROCESSION THROUGH THE STREETS OF SRIRANGA PATTANA.



IN 1780, HAIDAR DECLARED WAR ON THE BRITISH AGAIN. FIERCE BATTLES WERE FOUGHT AT VARIOUS PLACES.



TIPU HAD BEEN SENT TO MALABAR TO DEFEND IT AGAINST THE BRITISH. HE WAS CAMPING AT PONNANI WHEN —



TIPU IMMEDIATELY LEFT PONNANI.





PURNAIYA, A MINISTER, MET HIM WELL BEFORE HE HAD REACHED HIS DESTINATION.

BY GOD'S GRACE WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FOIL THE CONSPIRACY TO DEPRIVE YOU OF THE OFFICE OF DALWAI. THE TRAITORS HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED. HERE IS A LIST OF THEIR NAMES.

CONSPIRACY? AGAINST ME?

TIPU BECAME THOUGHTFUL.

I THOUGHT OUR PEOPLE LOVED ME, THAT THEY WANTED ME. I DON'T WANT TO SET OFF AN ENDLESS CHAIN OF KILLING. I'LL BECOME AN ASCETIC.

WHEN TIPU TOLD PURNAIYA OF HIS DECISION —

NO, TIPU, MY SON! IF A FEW SELFISH AND THOUGHTLESS MEN ARE AGAINST YOU, MILLIONS OF OTHERS ARE BEHIND YOU. DON'T DISAPPOINT THEM.

THE DEVOTED MINISTER CONTINUED TO PLEAD —

TIPU, YOU ARE OUR ONLY HOPE AGAINST THE BRITISH. THE PEOPLE NEED YOU.

AT LAST, TIPU YIELDED.

ALL RIGHT, I GIVE IN.

THEN HE TORE THE LIST INTO PIECES.

ALL THE SAME, I PARDON ALL THE CONSPIRATORS. I AM AT WAR WITH THE BRITISH, NOT WITH MY OWN PEOPLE.

TIPU, MY LORD!

TIPU AND PURNAIYA RESUMED THEIR JOURNEY. ON REACHING CHITTOOR\* WHERE HAIDAR'S ARMY HAD ENCAMPED, TIPU WAS DECLARED HAIDAR'S SUCCESSOR.

MEANWHILE, THE BRITISH WERE HAPPY AT THE NEWS OF HAIDAR'S DEATH, AND AN ARMY UNDER GENERAL MATTHEWS SET SAIL FROM BOMBAY FOR THE SOUTH.

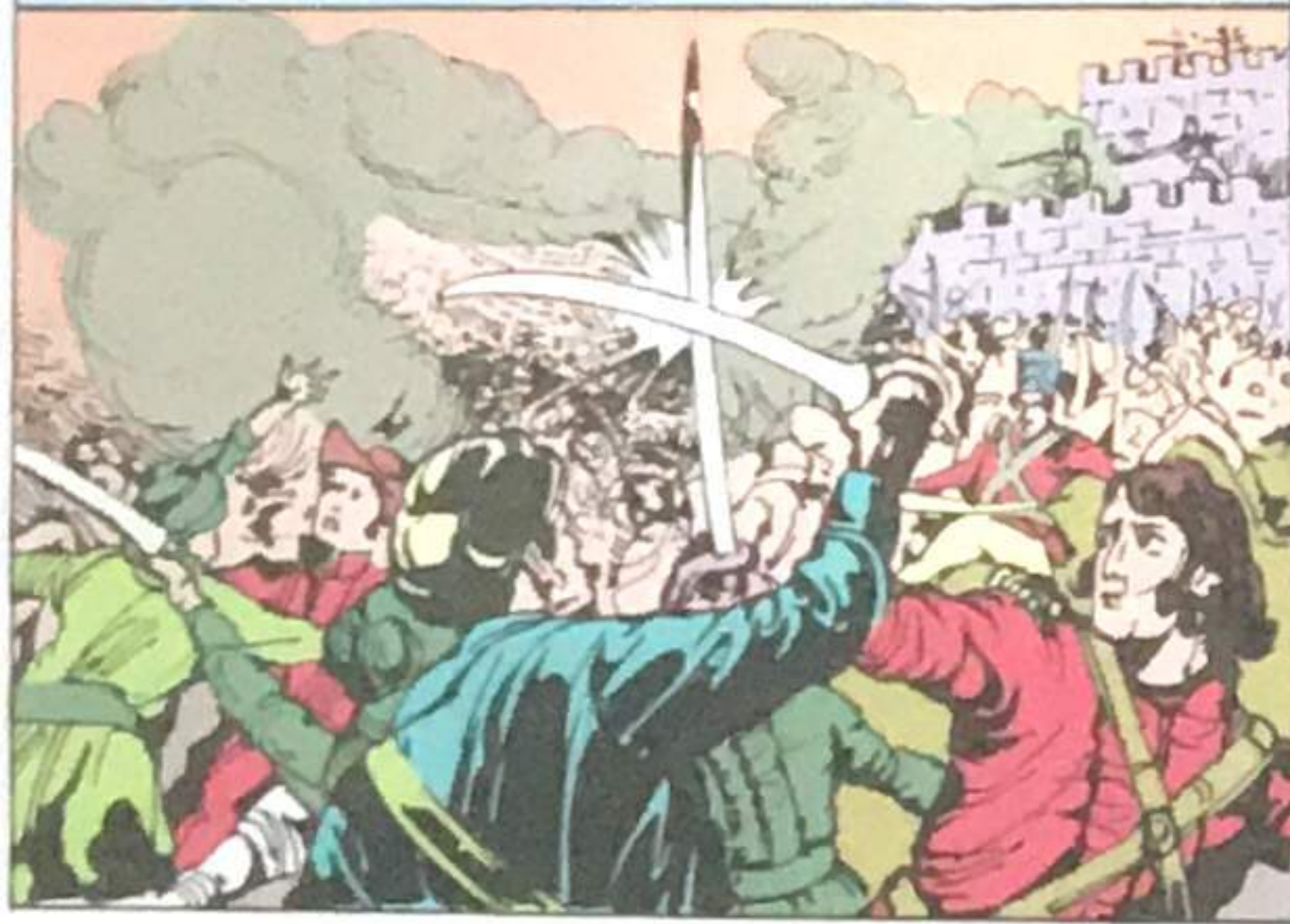
NOW THAT HAIDAR IS DEAD, WE'LL TAKE MYSORE.

IT'LL BE EASY. TIPU IS YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED.

\* NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH CHITTOR OF RAJASTHAN.



GENERAL MATTHEWS OCCUPIED BIDANUR, A FORT NEAR MANGALORE. TIPU IMMEDIATELY WENT TO THE RESCUE AND BESIEGED THE FORT.



AFTER EIGHTEEN DAYS, GENERAL MATTHEWS SUED FOR PEACE.

GENERAL MATTHEWS WILL SURRENDER THE FORT BUT HE MUST BE GRANTED SAFE CONDUCT THROUGH YOUR TERRITORY.

I AGREE, ON ONE CONDITION. NOTHING VALUABLE SHOULD BE TAKEN FROM BIDANUR.



DESPITE TIPU'S WARNING, MATTHEWS THREW OPEN THE TREASURY IN THE FORT TO HIS SOLDIERS.



HELP YOURSELVES, LADS!

THEN THE BRITISH ARMY MARCHED OUT OF THE FORT...



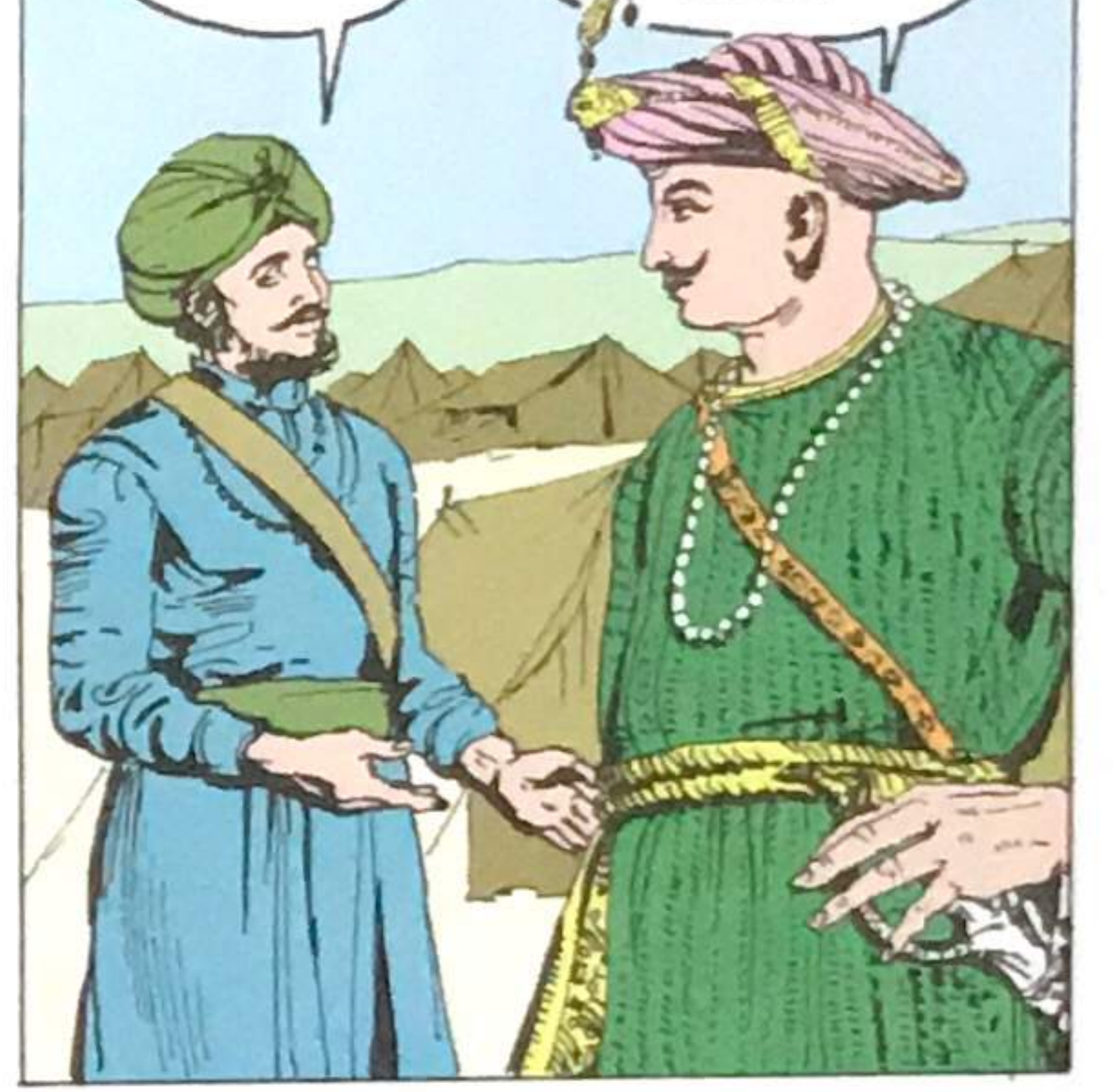
... AND DEPOSITED THEIR ARMS BEFORE TIPU'S SOLDIERS AS A TOKEN OF SURRENDER.



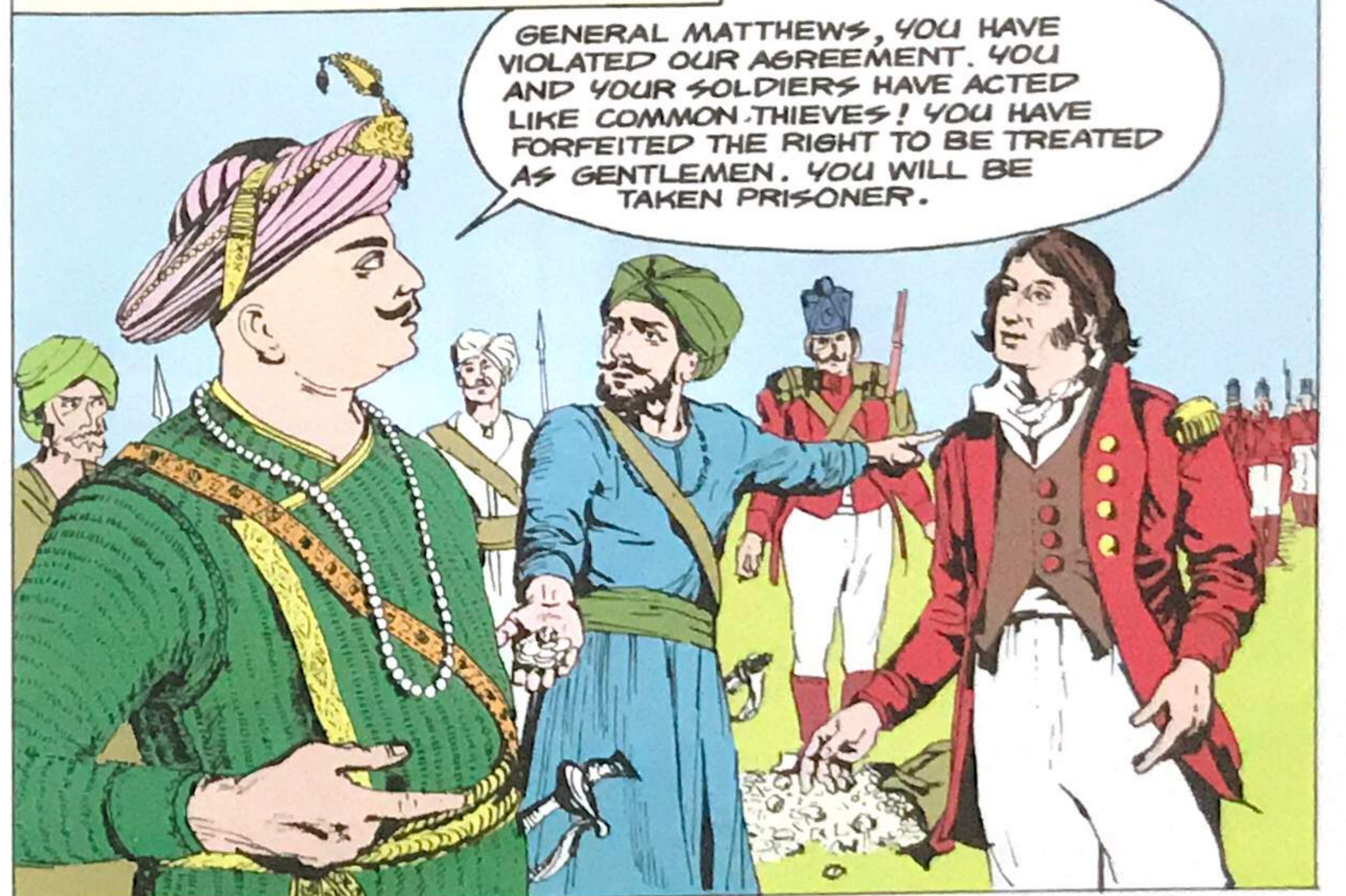
TRUE TO HIS WORD, TIPU ALLOWED THE BRITISH TO GO. SECONDS LATER —

THE TREASURY IS EMPTY.

STOP THE BRITISH AT ONCE AND SEARCH THEM.



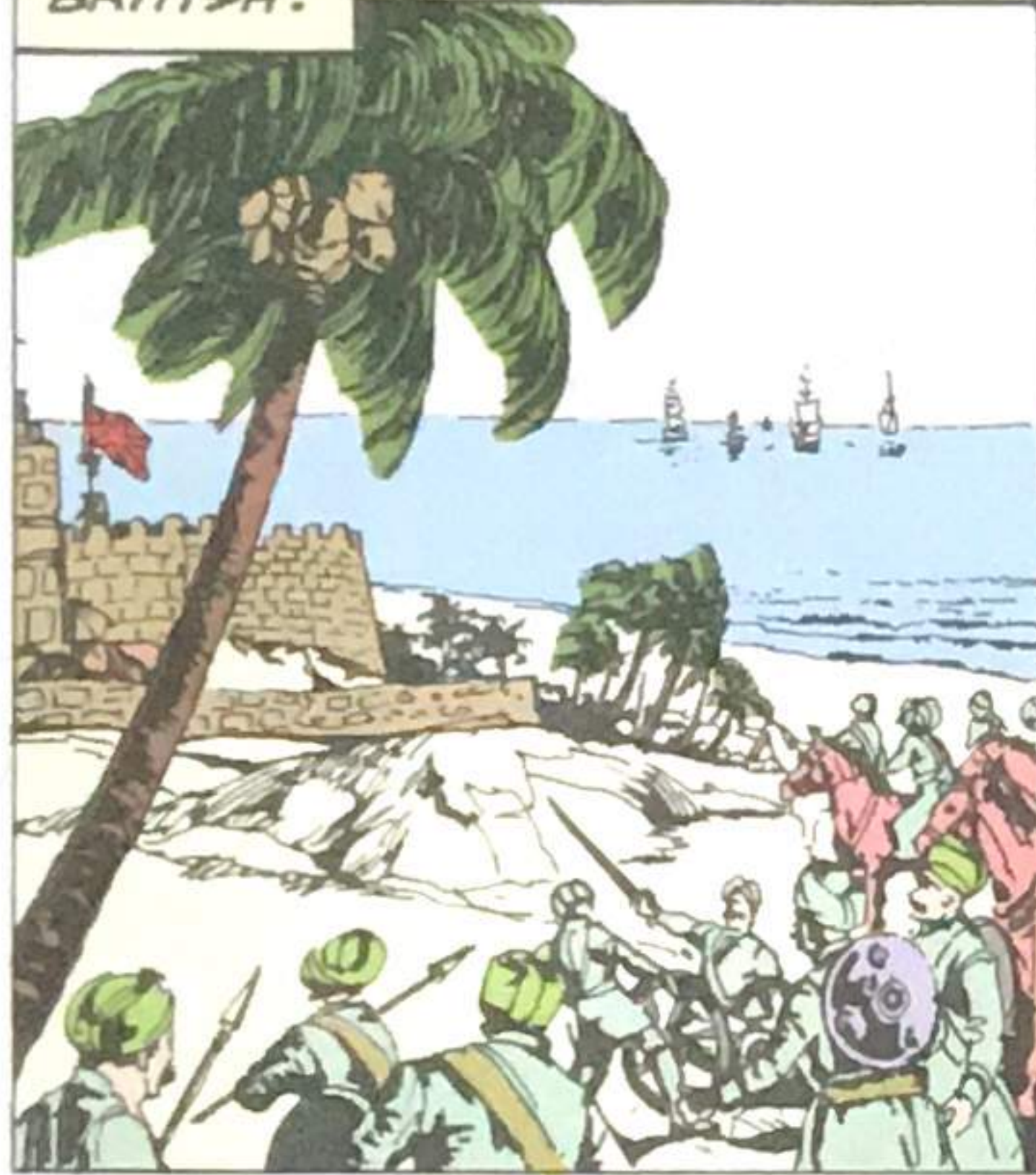
EVERY BRITISH KNAPSACK WAS FOUND TO BE LINED WITH GOLD AND JEWELS. TIPU BECAME VERY ANGRY.



GENERAL MATTHEWS, YOU HAVE VIOLATED OUR AGREEMENT. YOU AND YOUR SOLDIERS HAVE ACTED LIKE COMMON THIEVES! YOU HAVE FORFEITED THE RIGHT TO BE TREATED AS GENTLEMEN. YOU WILL BE TAKEN PRISONER.



TIPU THEN PROCEEDED TO LAY SIEGE TO MANGALORE WHICH WAS AT THAT TIME OCCUPIED BY THE BRITISH.



WHEN THE FALL OF MANGALORE WAS IMMINENT, THE BRITISH SIGNED A PEACE TREATY WITH HIM.

WE AGREE TO RESTORE YOUR TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY US.



TIPU RETURNED TO SRIRANGA PATTANA AND WORKED FOR THE WELFARE OF HIS PEOPLE. ONE DAY TWO BRAHMAN FROM SRINGERI CALLED ON HIM —

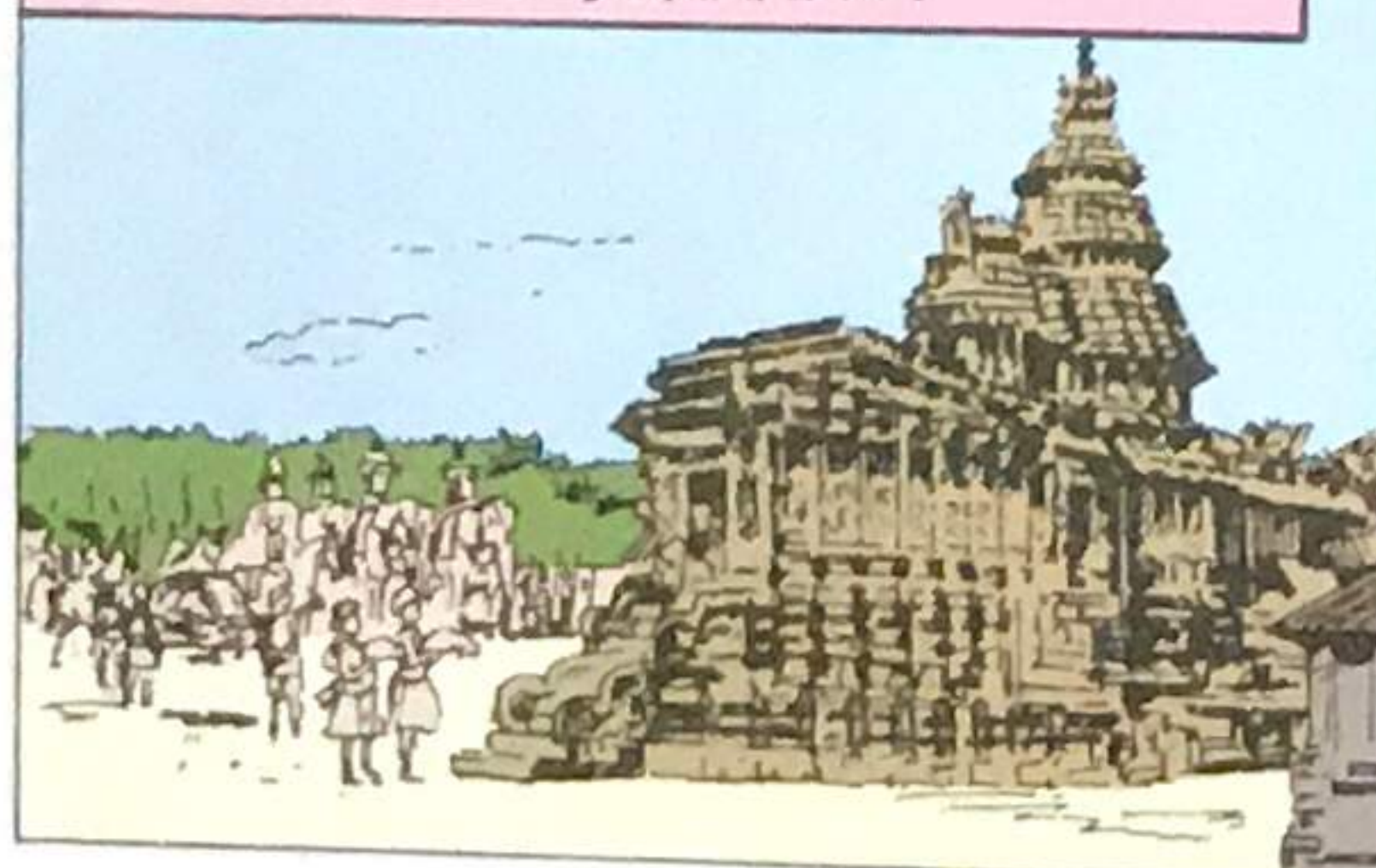


THE TEMPLE OF GODDESS SHARADA HAS BEEN RANSACKED BY SOME MISCREANTS.

I AM GRIEVED TO HEAR THIS. PEOPLE DO EVIL DEEDS WITH A SMILE ONLY TO SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES WITH TEARS.



HE SENT GOLD AND JEWELS TO SRINGERI FOR THE CONSECRATION OF GODDESS SHARADA.



LATER, THE BRAHMAN CAME AGAIN, BRINGING HIM THE HOLY OFFERING.



PRAY FOR THE PROSPERITY OF MY PEOPLE.

MEANWHILE, CORNWALLIS, THE BRITISH GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN CALCUTTA, WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE GROWING POWER OF TIPU.

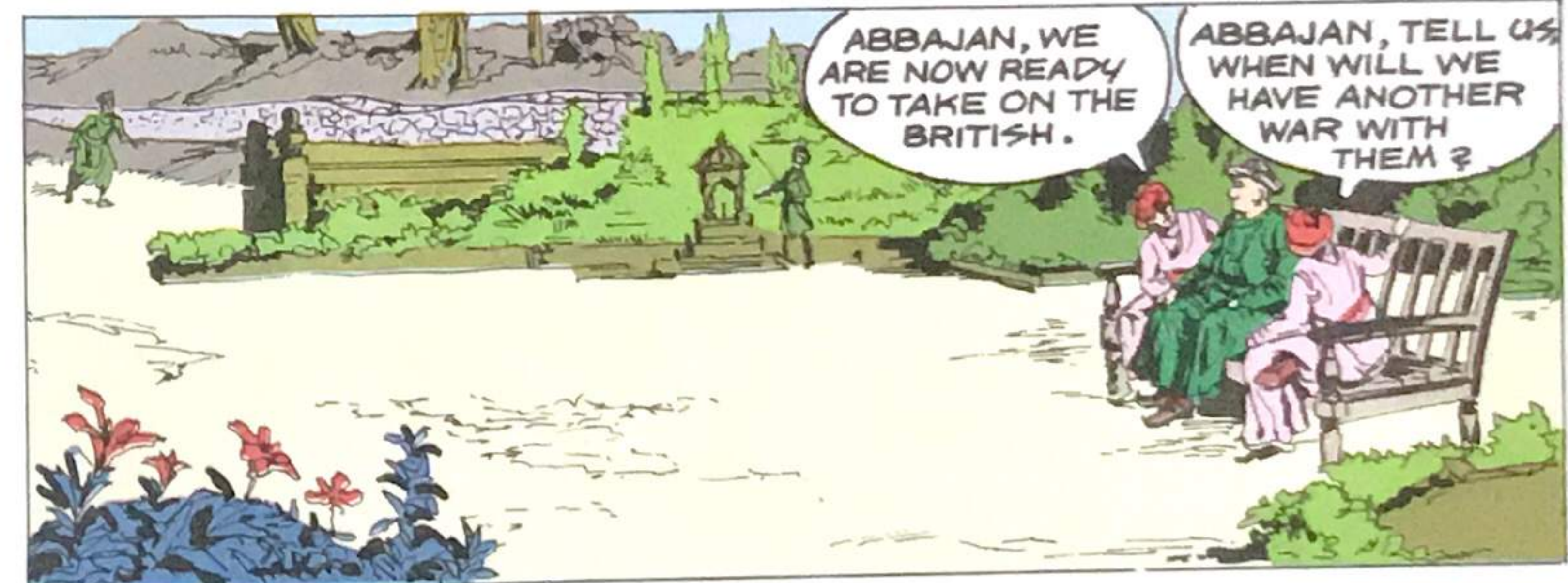
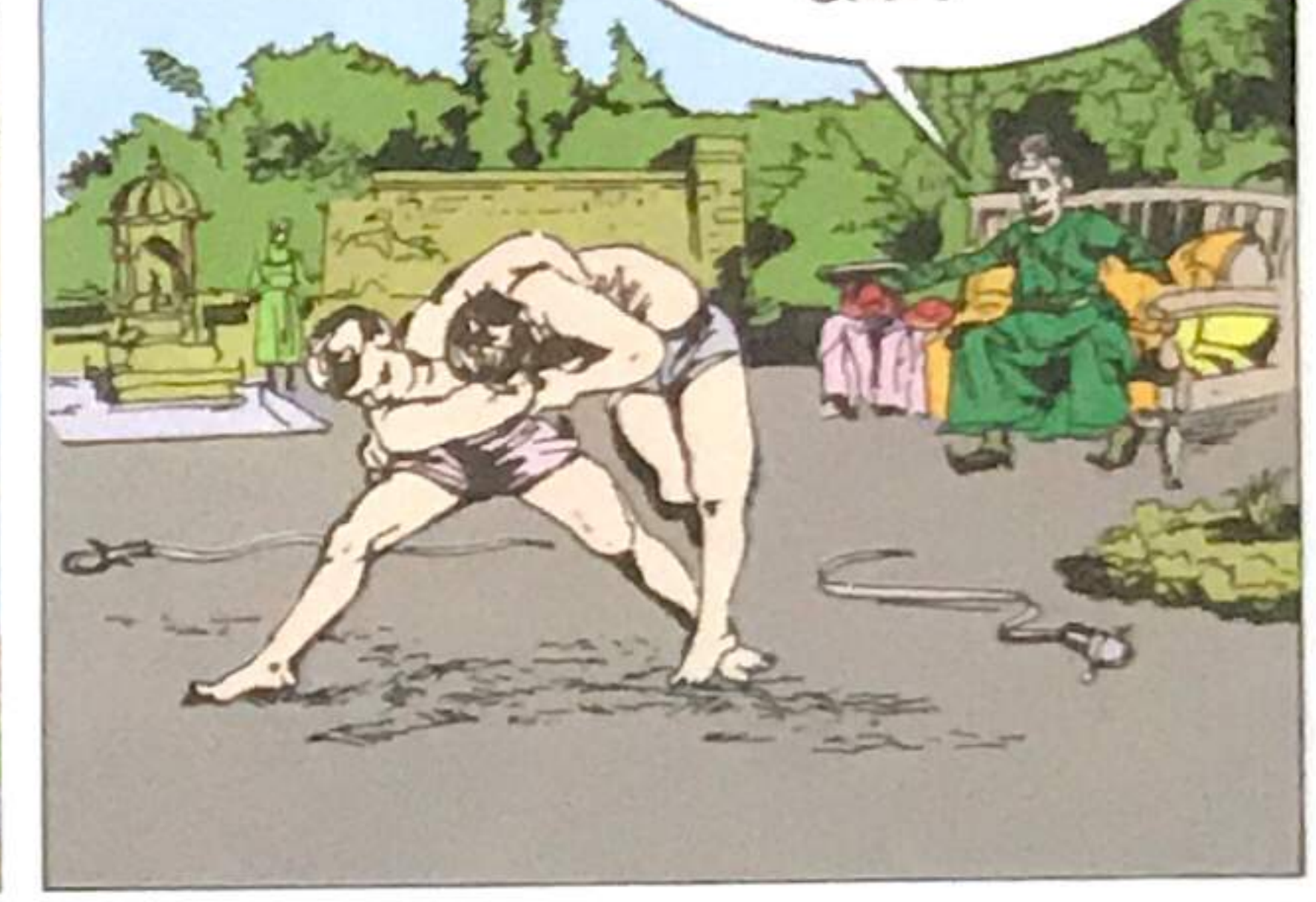
TIPU SHOULD BE CUT DOWN TO SIZE.

OUR REPEATED EFFORTS TO HUMBLE TIPU HAVE BEEN FUTILE.



UNAWARE OF THE BRITISH CONSPIRACY AGAINST HIM, TIPU WAS RELAXING IN HIS GARDEN, WATCHING HIS TWO YOUNG SONS PLAY.

GOOD, ABDUL! COME ON, MUIZ-UD-DIN, THROW HIM OFF.



ABBAJAN, WE ARE NOW READY TO TAKE ON THE BRITISH.

ABBAJAN, TELL US WHEN WILL WE HAVE ANOTHER WAR WITH THEM?

JUST THEN A MESSENGER ARRIVED.

YOUR MAJESTY, THE BRITISH, THE NIZAM AND THE MARATHAS HAVE JOINTLY DECLARED WAR ON US.



SO MY OWN COUNTRYMEN ARE UNITING WITH THE FOREIGNERS! I ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE.



WAR BROKE OUT. TIPU LOST FORT AFTER FORT.



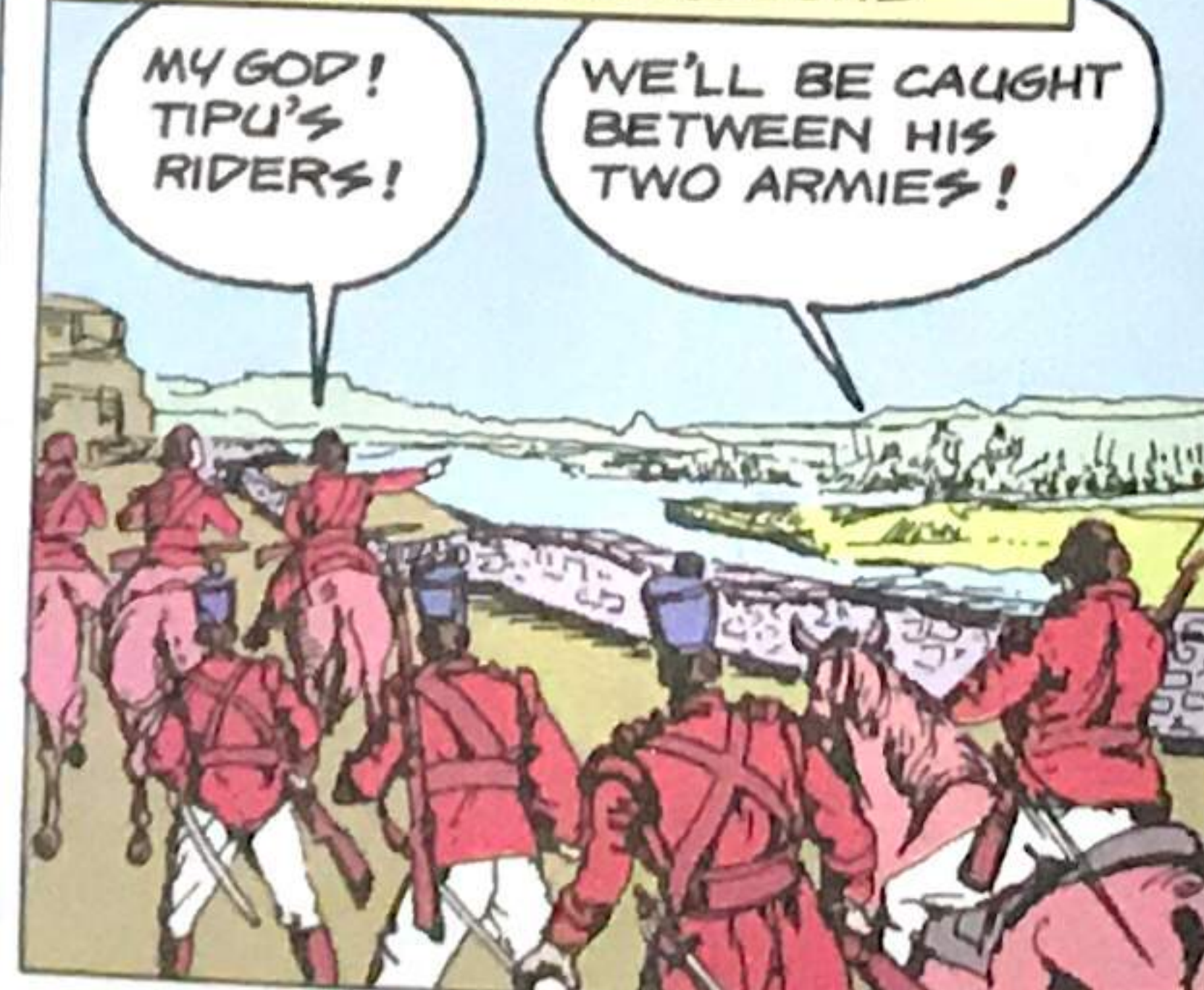
WHEN THE BRITISH ARMY FINALLY REACHED THE GATES OF SRIRANGA PATTANA, TIPU AND HIS SOLDIERS FOUGHT DESPERATELY...



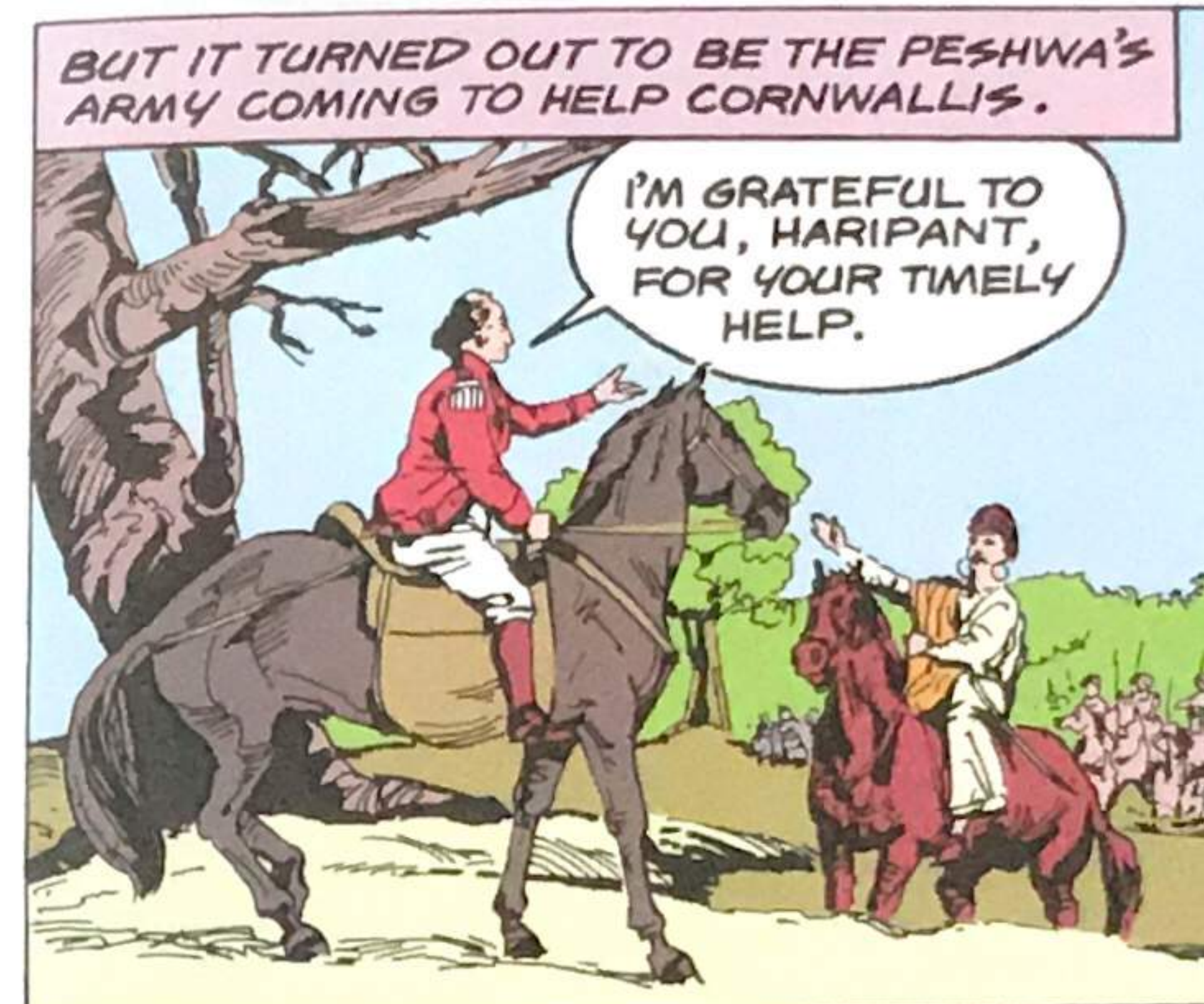
... AND COMPELLED CORNWALLIS TO RETREAT.



WHILE CORNWALLIS' ARMY WAS RETREATING TO BANGALORE —



BUT IT TURNED OUT TO BE THE PESHWA'S ARMY COMING TO HELP CORNWALLIS.



THE BATTLE WAS RESUMED AND TIPU WAS COMPELLED TO SUE FOR PEACE.

FIRST, WE MUST GET OUT OF THIS PREDICAMENT. I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE LATER.



TIPU SENT HIS ENVOYS TO THE BRITISH, WHO AGREED TO CEASE FIGHTING. BUT THEIR TERMS OF PEACE WERE VERY HARSH.

THE BRITISH WANT THREE CRORES AND THIRTY LAKHS OF RUPEES AS WAR EXPENSES. IN ADDITION, THEY WANT HALF YOUR KINGDOM.



CONVEY MY ACCEPTANCE OF THE TERMS TO CORNWALLIS.

THEY MAKE ONE MORE DEMAND — THEY WILL KEEP YOUR TWO YOUNG SONS AS HOSTAGES, TILL ALL THE TERMS OF THE TREATY ARE HONOURER.



THE BLACKGUARDS! HOWEVER, WAR IS WAR. PREPARE MY SONS FOR THEIR DEPARTURE, GHULAM ALI.





ON THE DAY TIPU'S SONS WERE TO BE SENT OVER TO THE BRITISH —



ABBAJAN!



CHILDREN, DON'T LOSE HEART. YOU ARE TIGER CUBS, AREN'T YOU? DON'T EVER FORGET THAT!

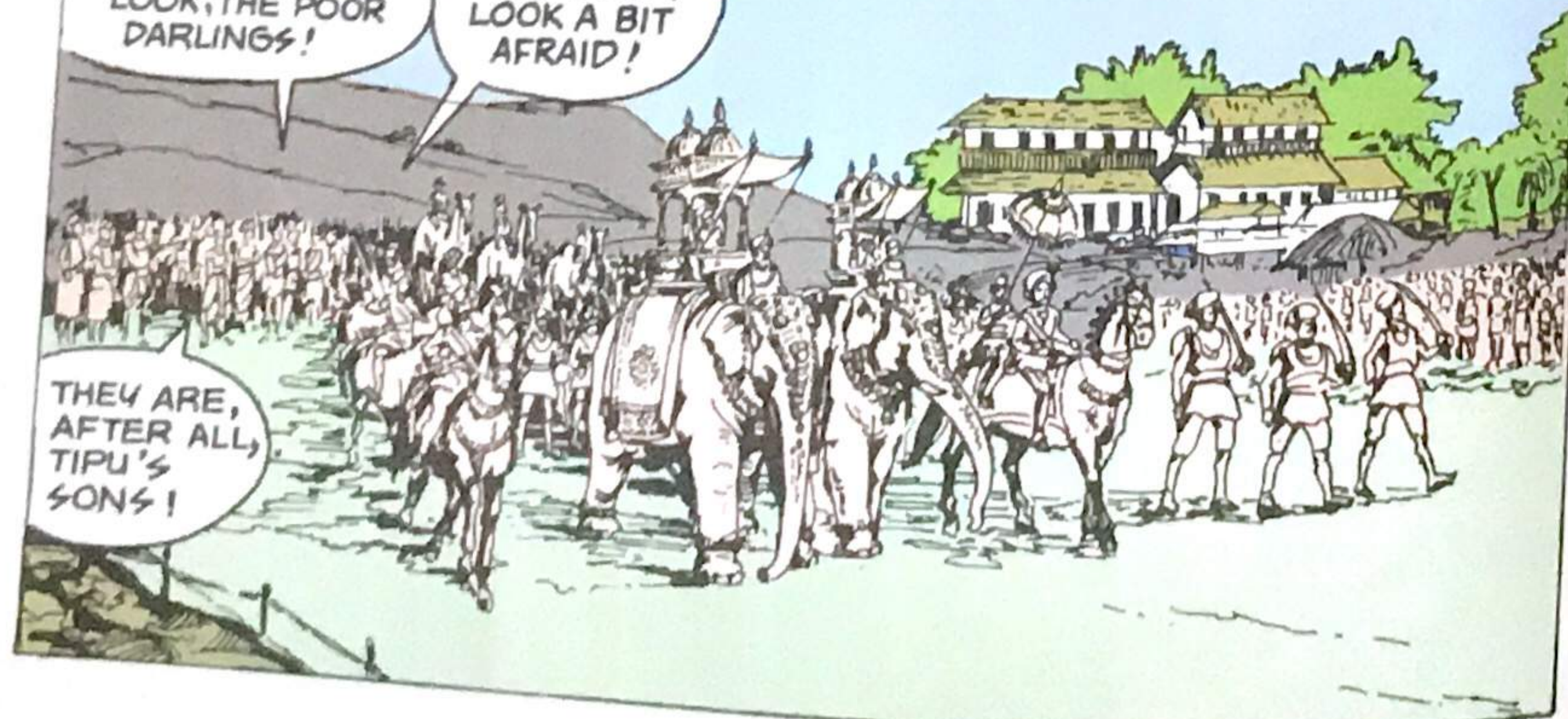
YES, ABBAJAN.

THE PEOPLE OF SRIRANGA PATTANA, WHO THROGGED THE STREETS TO BID THEM FAREWELL, WERE FILLED WITH PITY FOR THE YOUNG BOYS.

HOW CALM THEY LOOK, THE POOR DARLINGS!

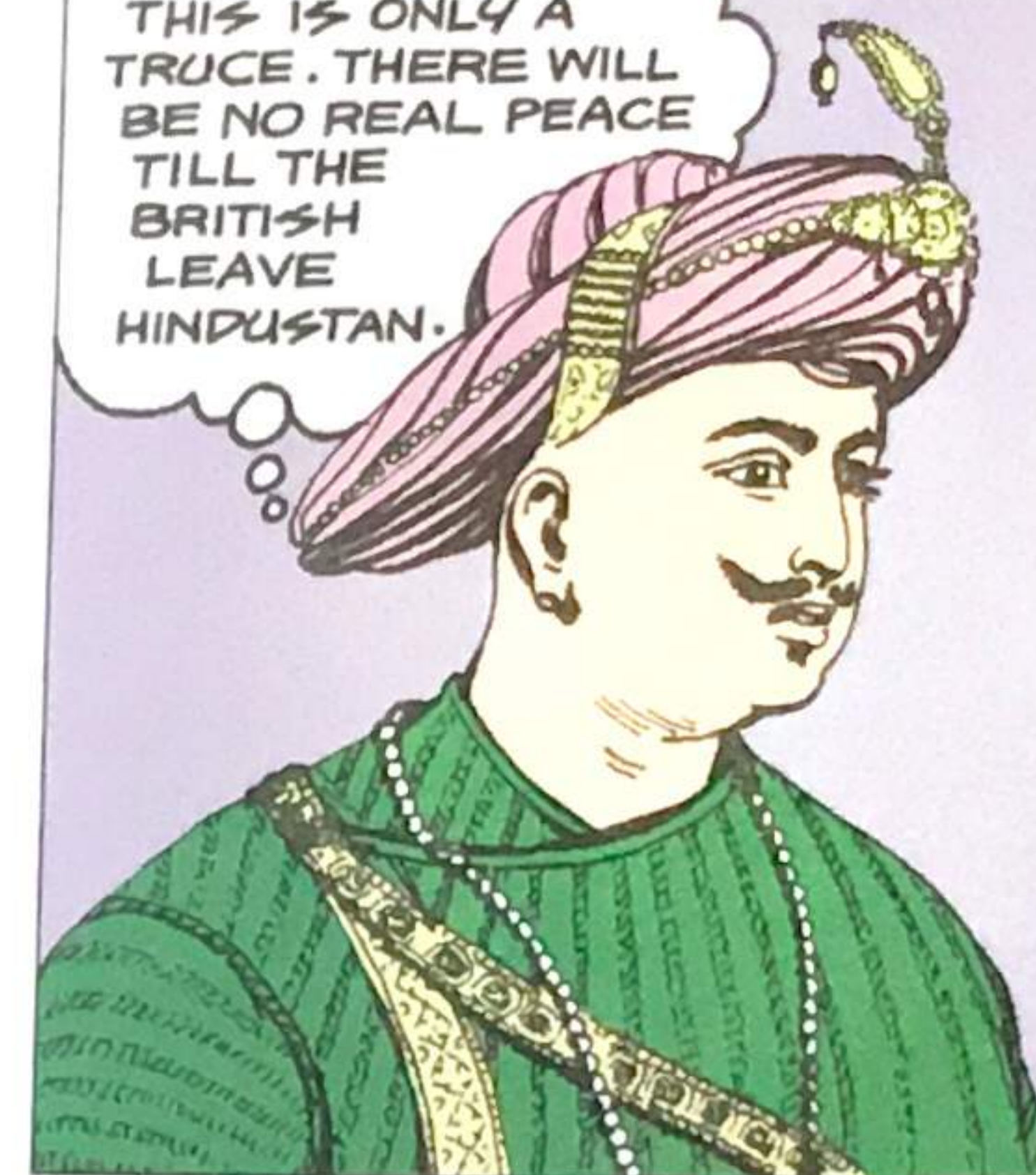
THEY DON'T LOOK A BIT AFRAID!

THEY ARE, AFTER ALL, TIPU'S SONS!



THE PEACE TREATY WAS CONCLUDED.

THIS IS ONLY A TRUCE. THERE WILL BE NO REAL PEACE TILL THE BRITISH LEAVE HINDUSTAN.



THE PEOPLE OF MYSORE VOLUNTEERED TO PAY A SPECIAL TAX TO SPEED UP THE PAYMENT OF WAR DAMAGES.

THE SULTAN WILL APPRECIATE YOUR GESTURE.



FINALLY THE TERMS OF THE TREATY WERE FULFILLED, AND THE PRINCES RETURNED. TIPU THEN TURNED HIS FULL ATTENTION TO STRENGTHENING HIS ARMY.



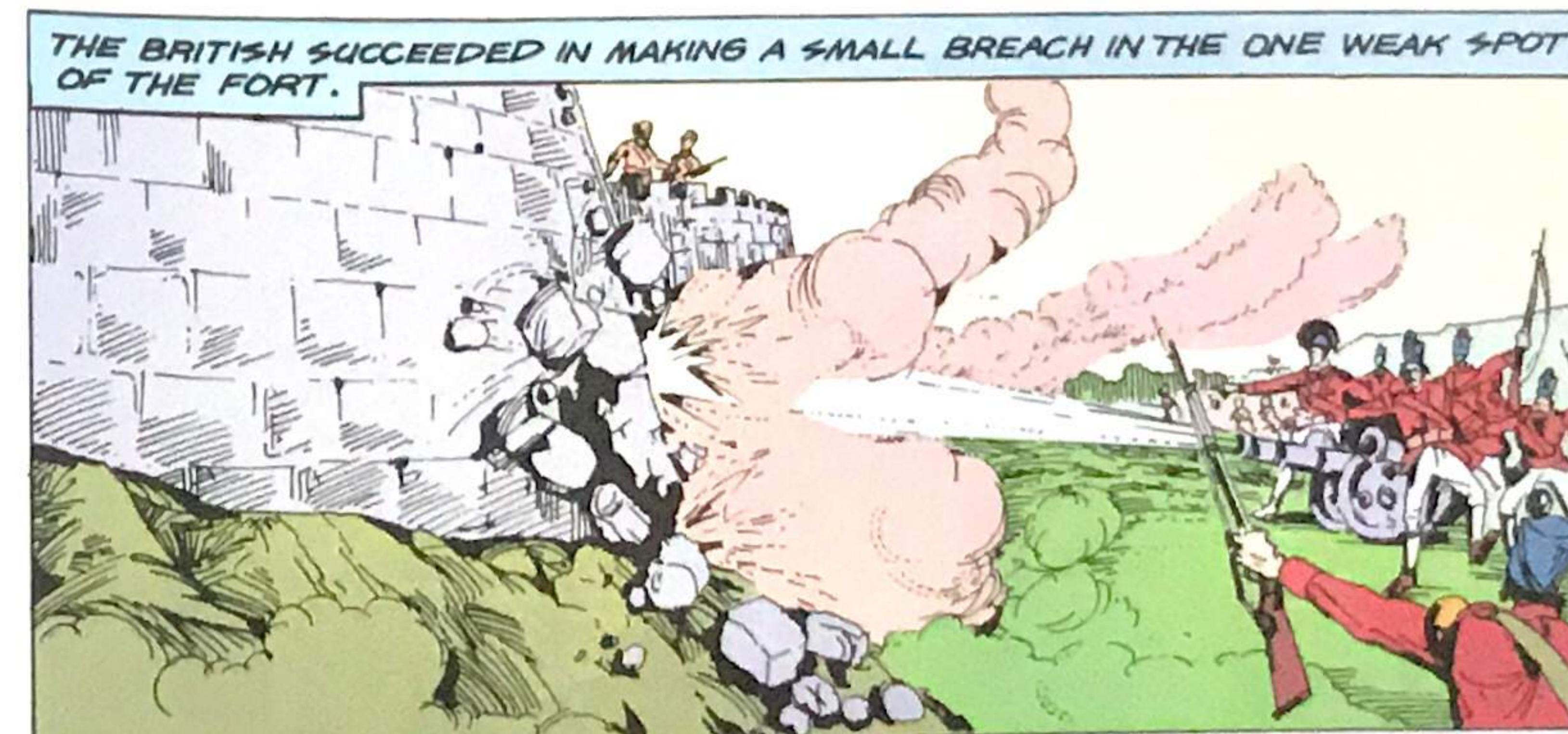
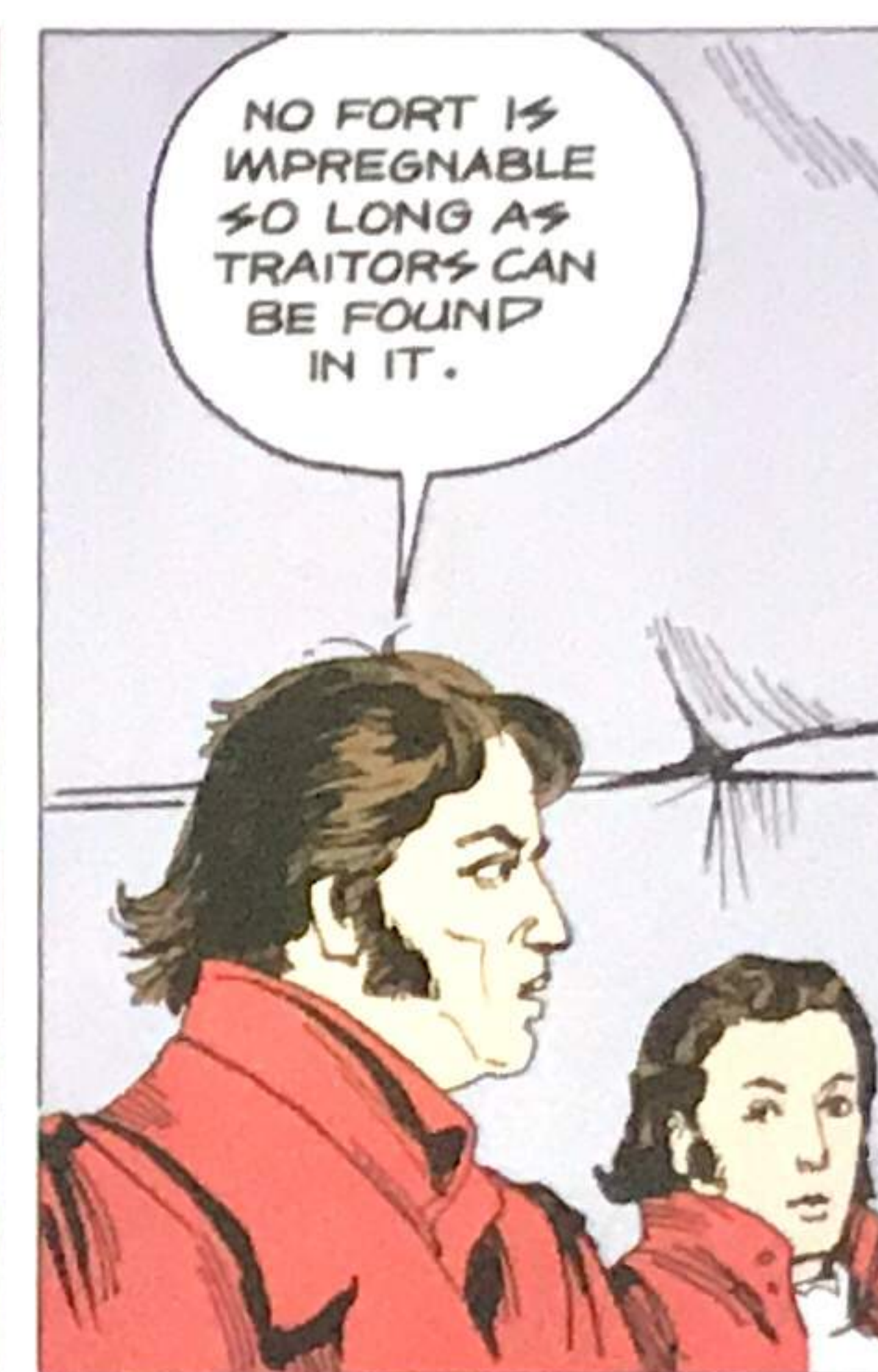
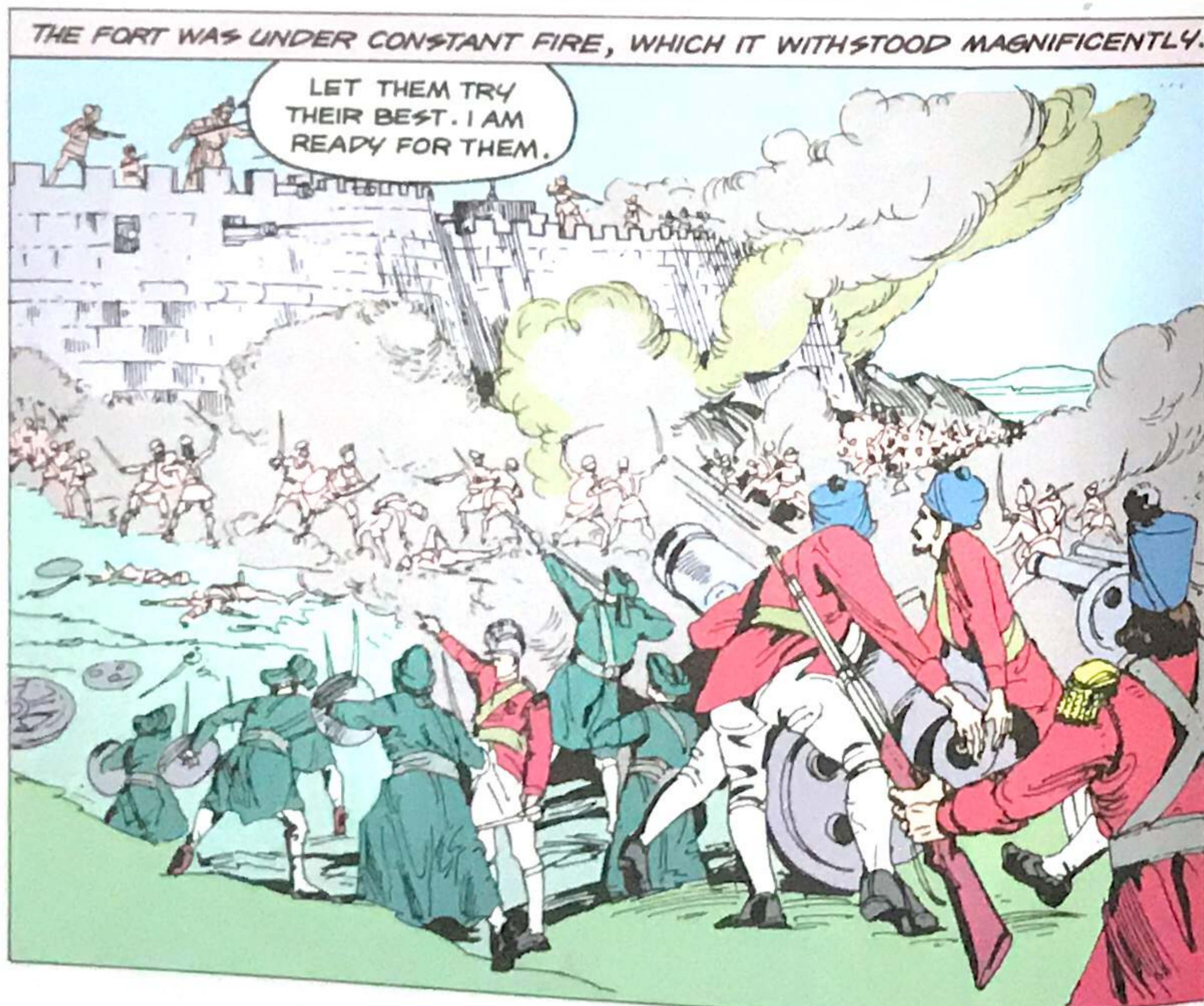
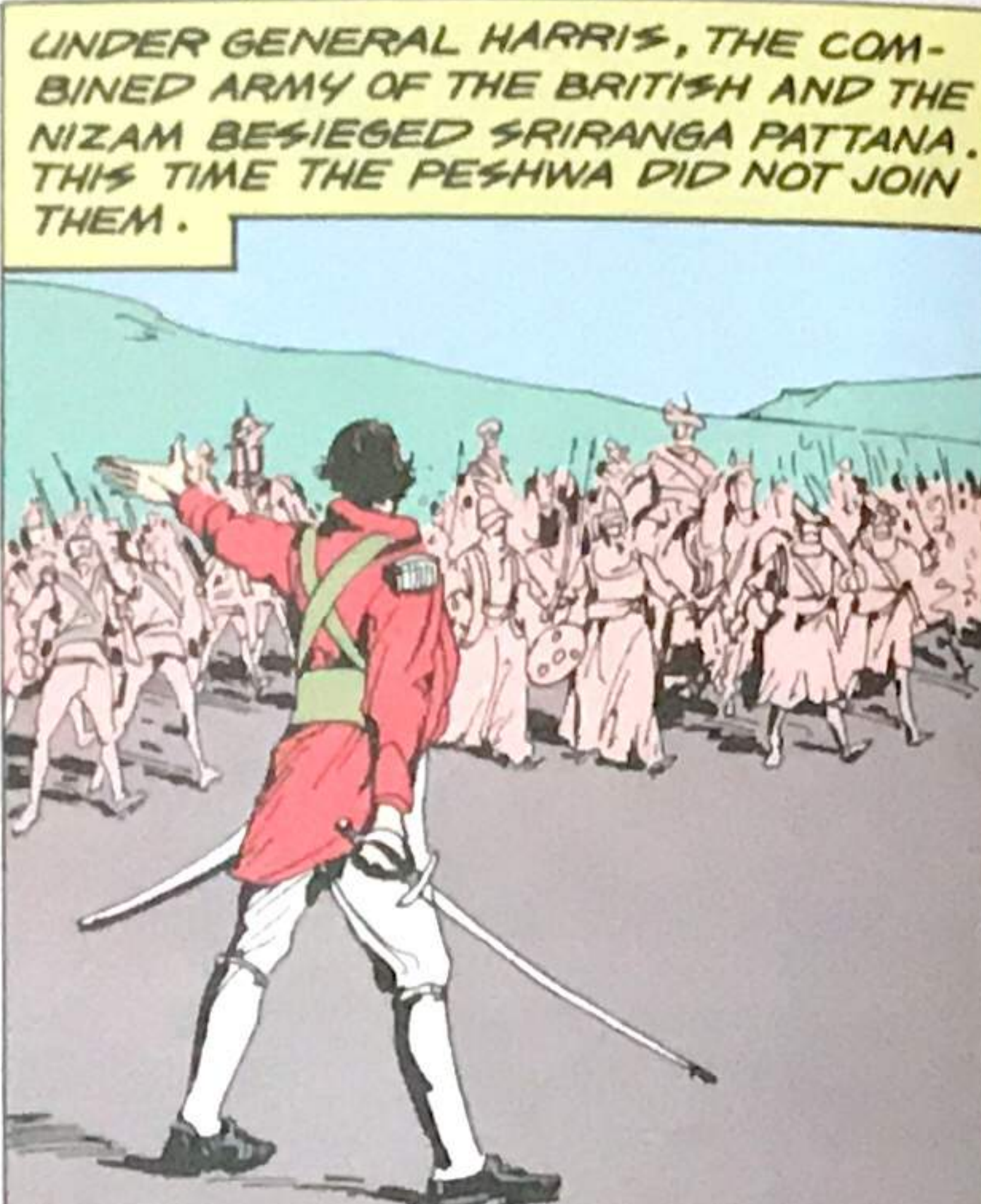
LORD WELLESLEY, WHO HAD BEEN APPOINTED THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF BRITISH INDIA, WAS NOT IDLE, EITHER.

WE COULD BE THE PARA-MOUNT POWER IN INDIA — THE ONLY OBSTACLE IS TIPU.

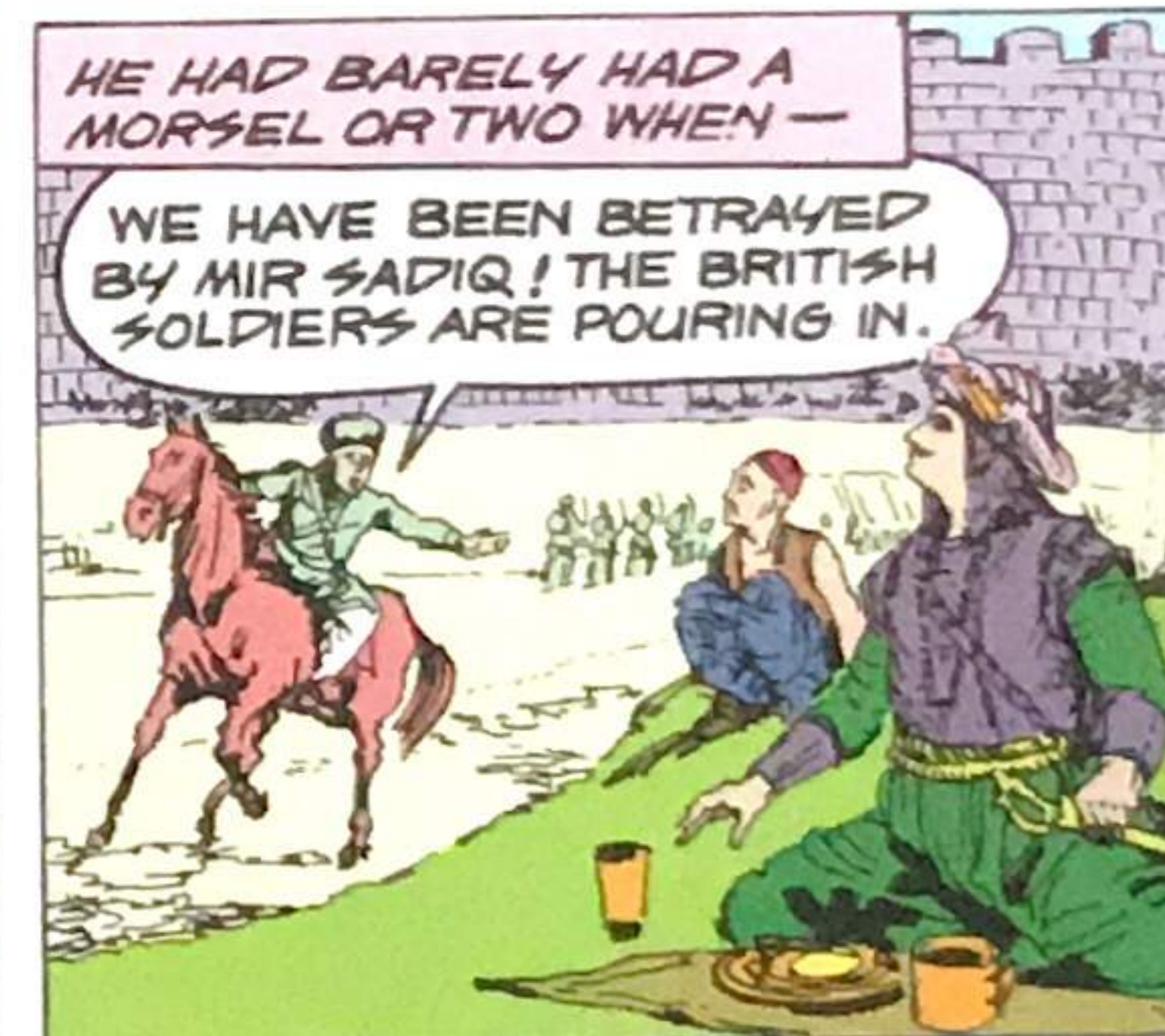
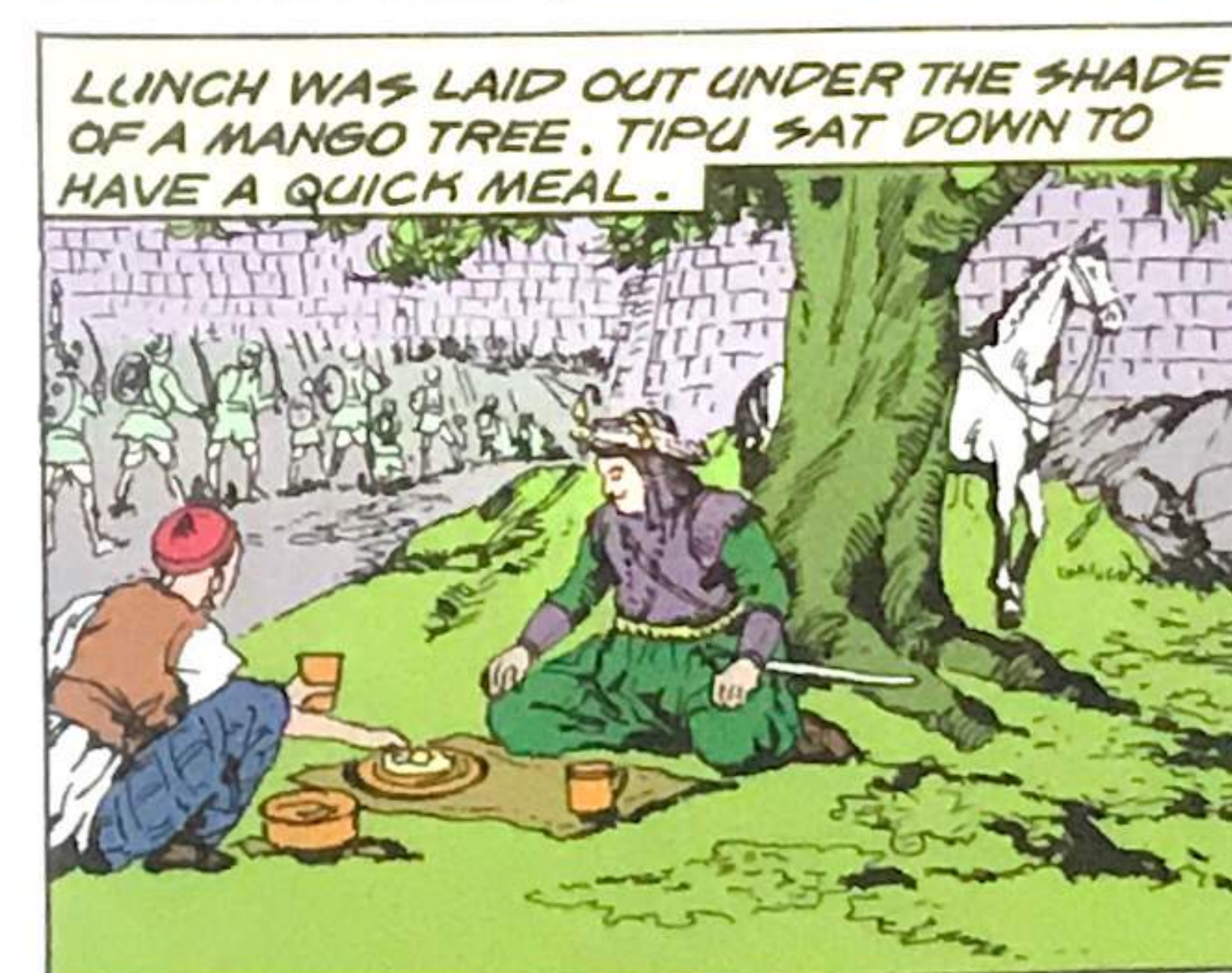
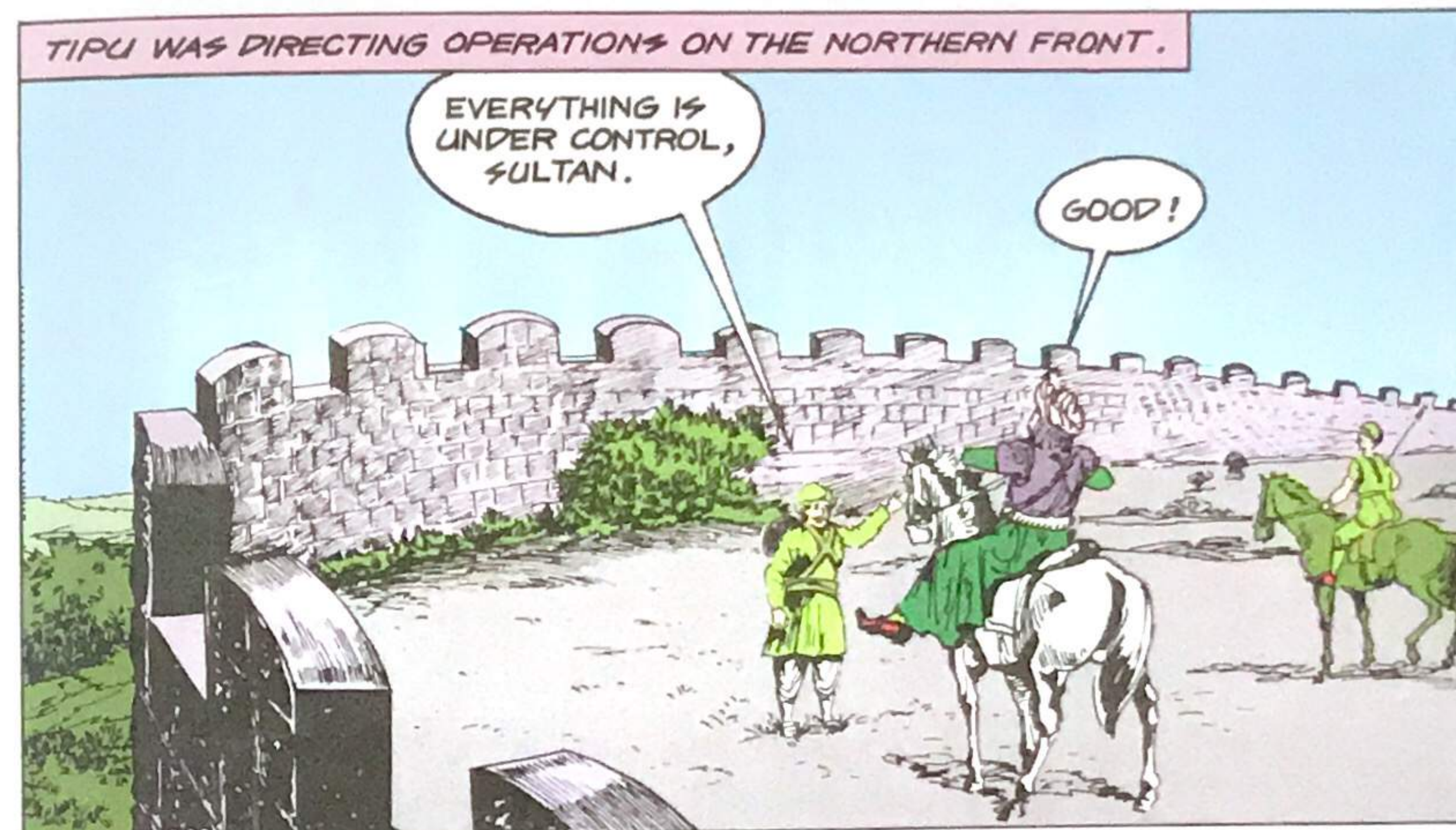
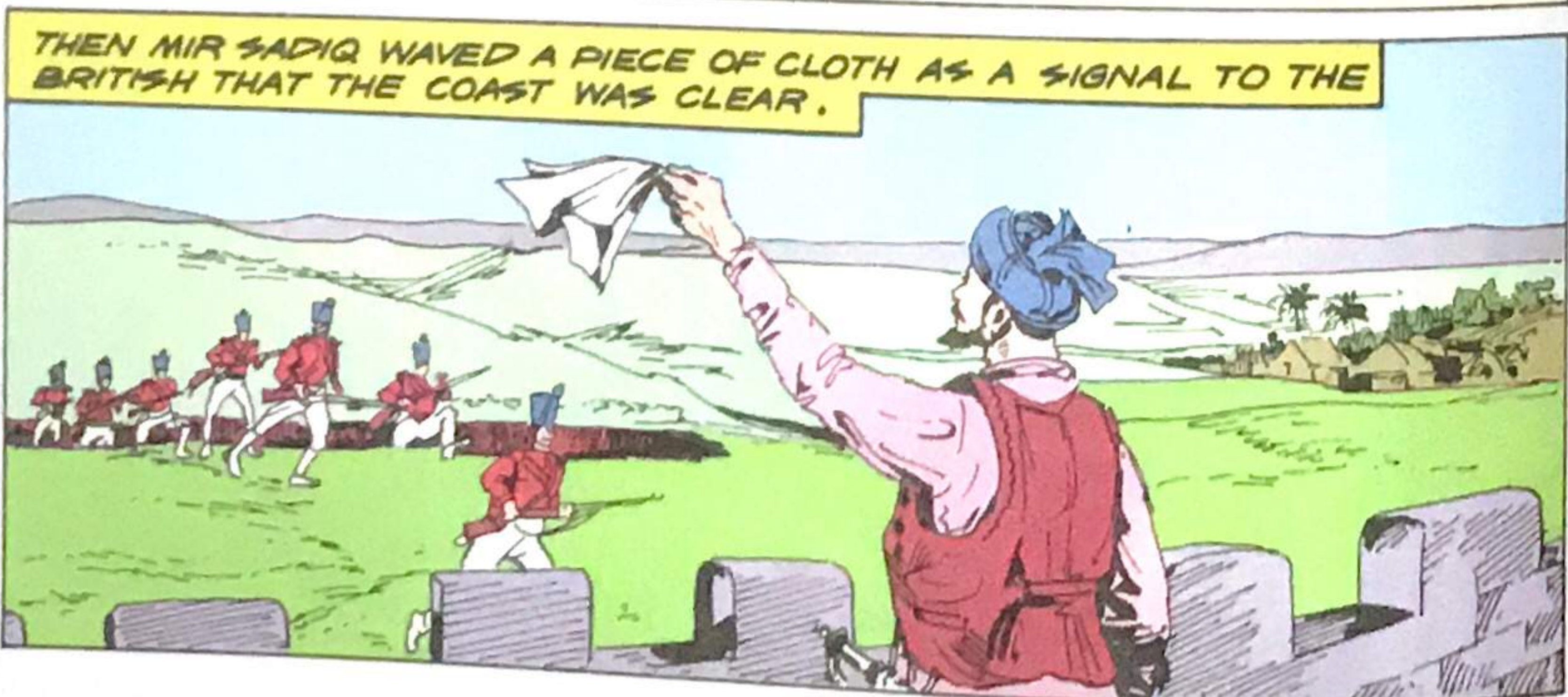
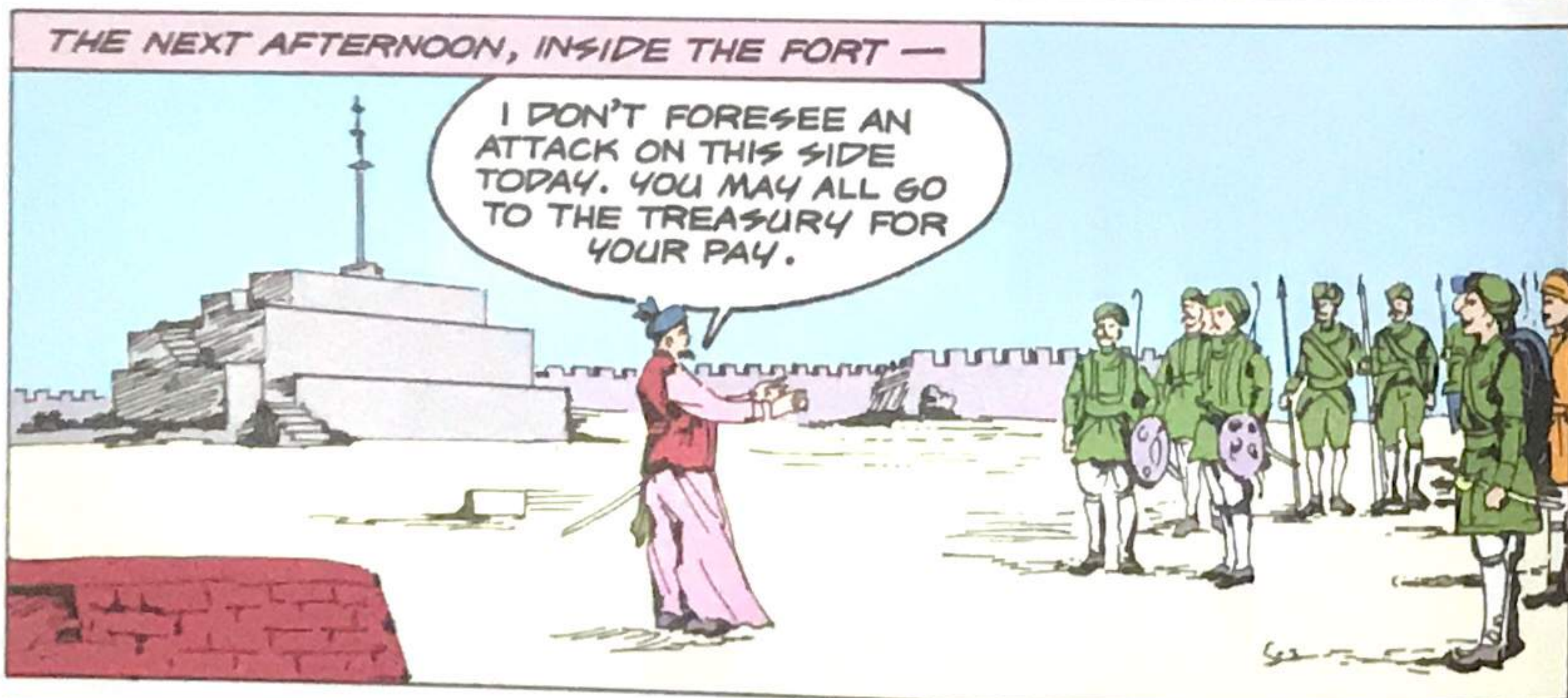
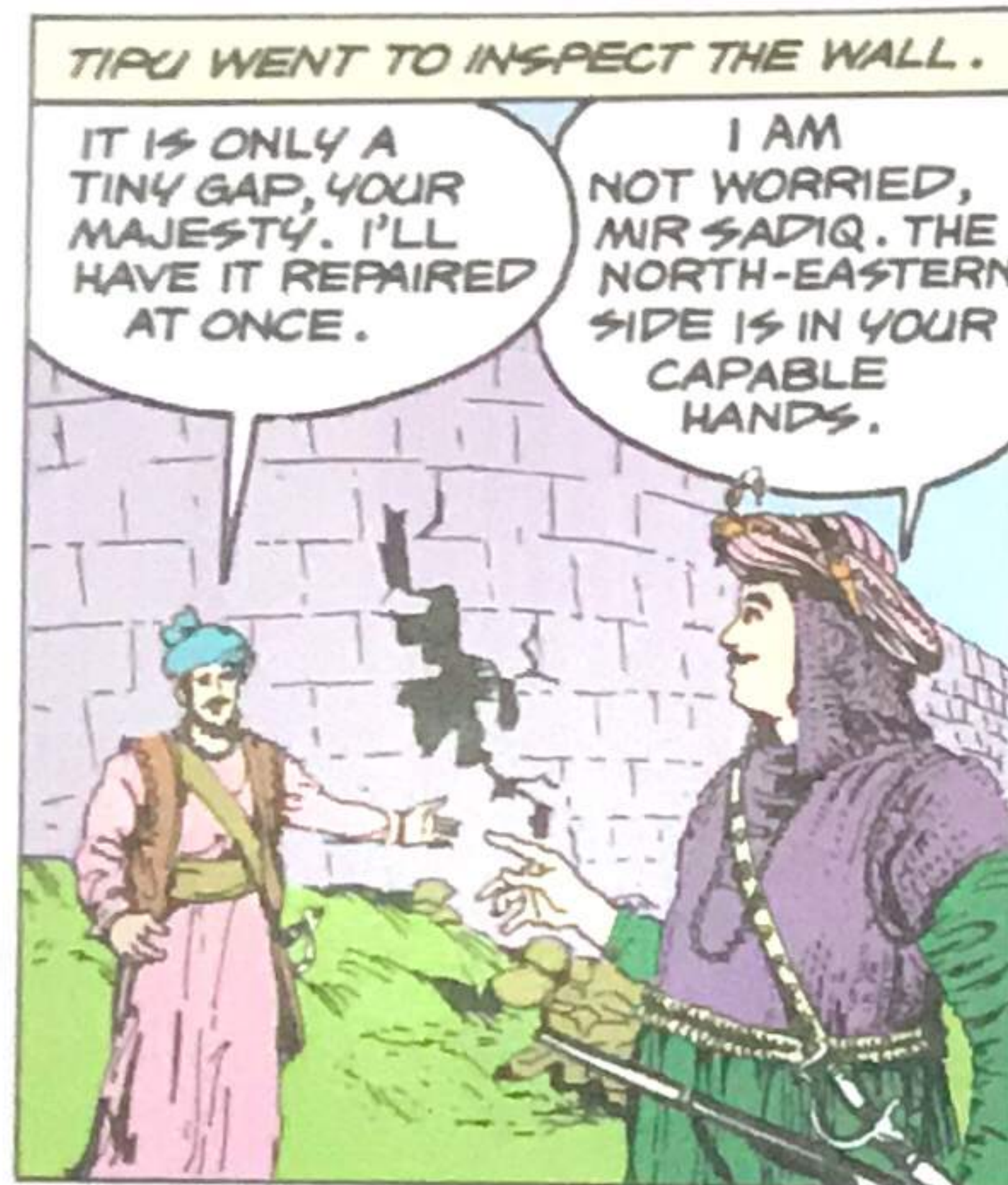
THAT MAN IS WILLY. HIS LATEST MOVE HAS BEEN TO SEND AMBASSADORS TO AFGHANISTAN, IRAN AND FRANCE ASKING FOR MILITARY HELP...





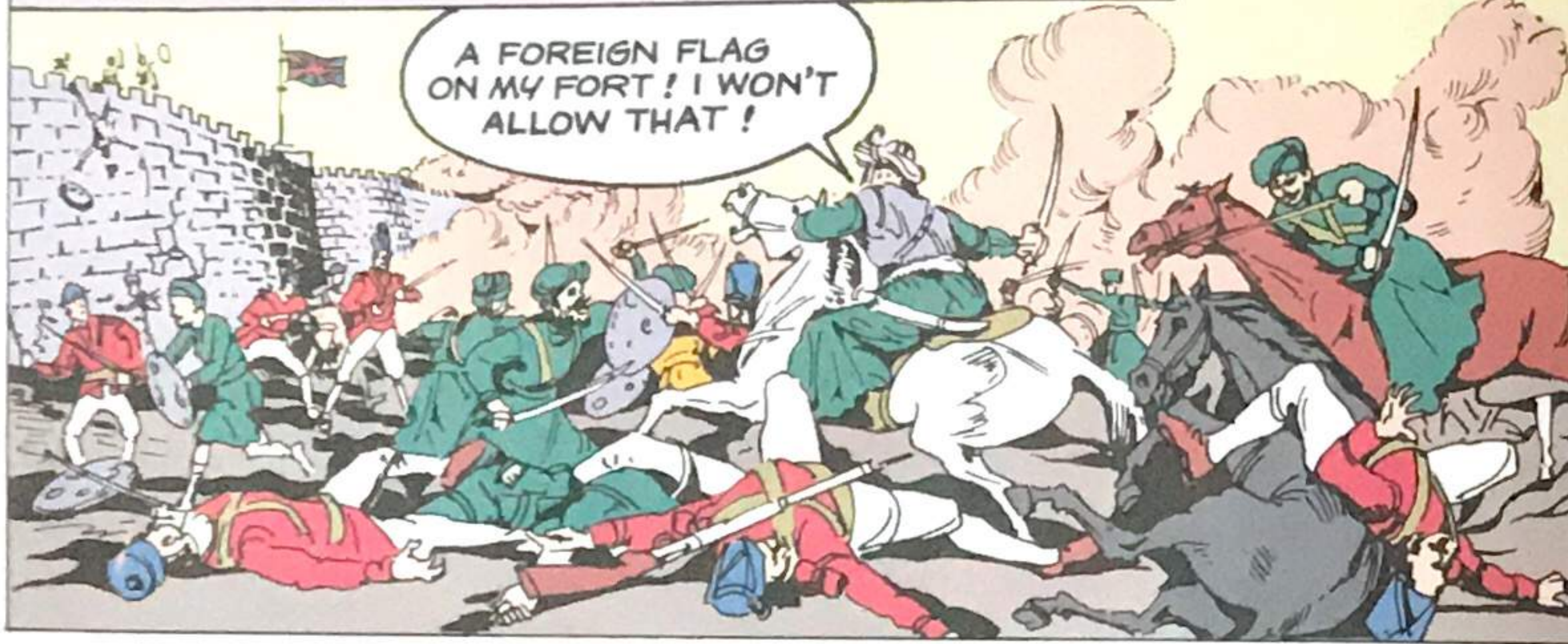








BUT THE BRITISH HAD ALREADY HOISTED THEIR FLAG. TIPU FOUGHT HIS WAY TO THE BREACH.



TIPU WAS SURROUNDED BY BRITISH SOLDIERS, WHO DID NOT KNOW WHO HE WAS. HE FOUGHT DESPERATELY...



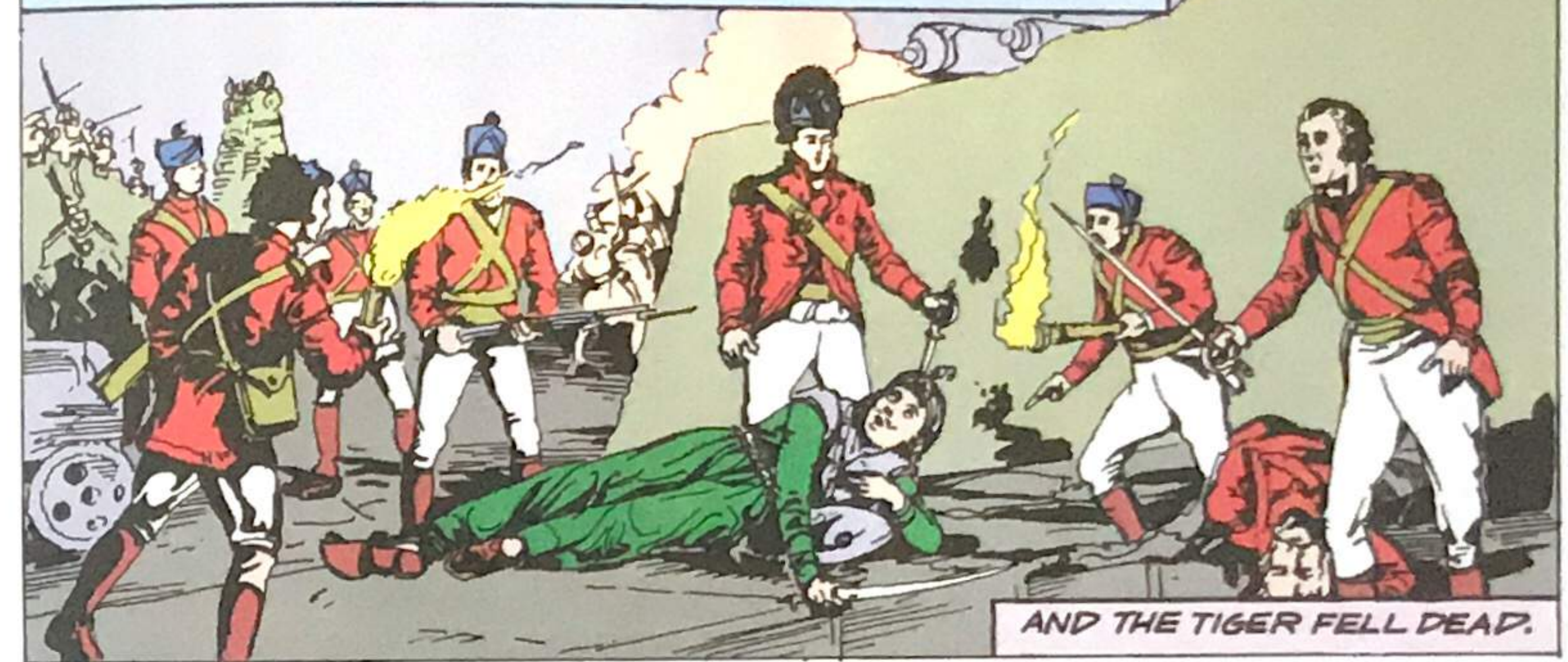
... AND FELL AS A BULLET STRUCK HIM ON THE CHEST.



ONE OF THE BRITISH TRIED TO SEIZE HIS SWORD-BELT BUT TIPU, WOUNDED AS HE WAS, STRUCK HIM.



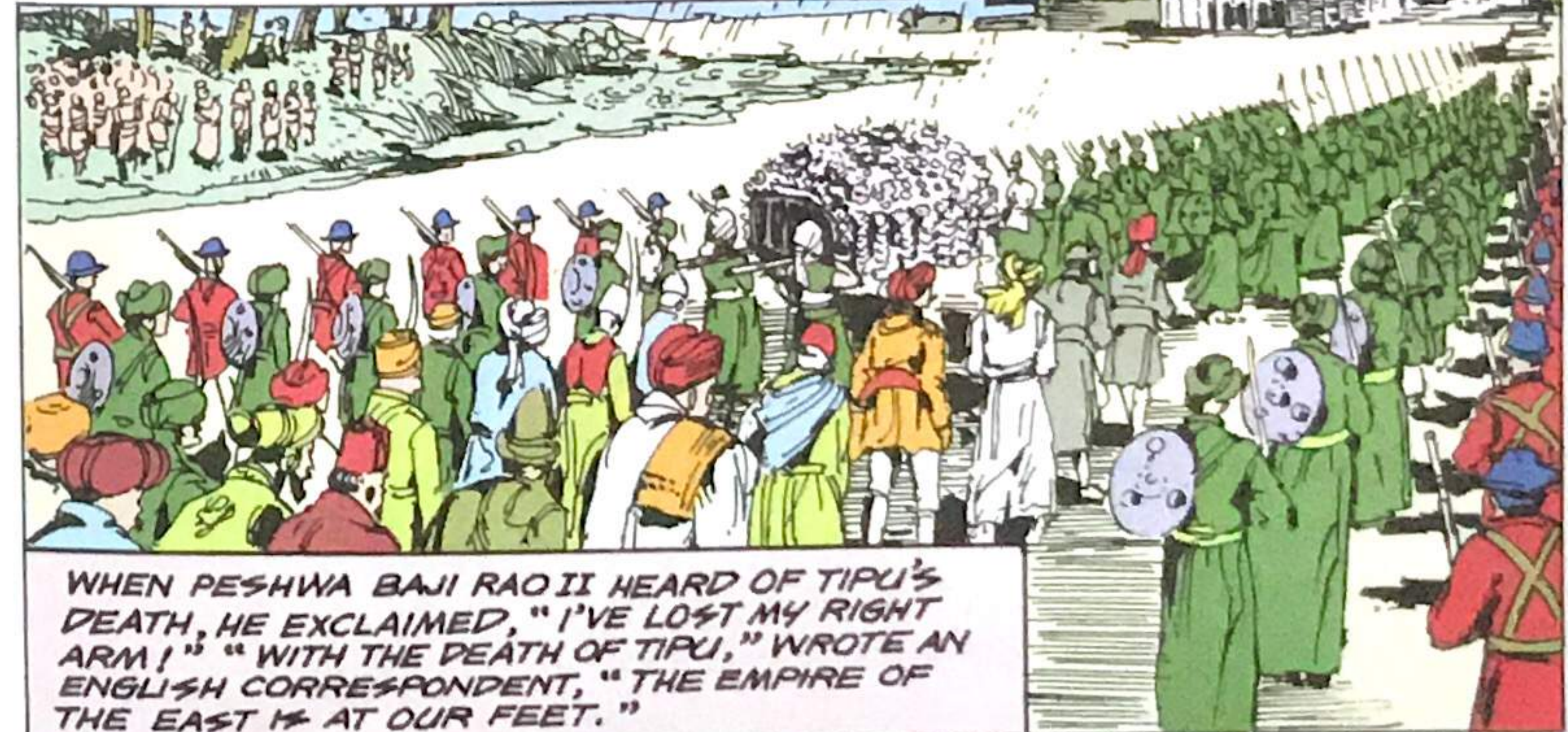
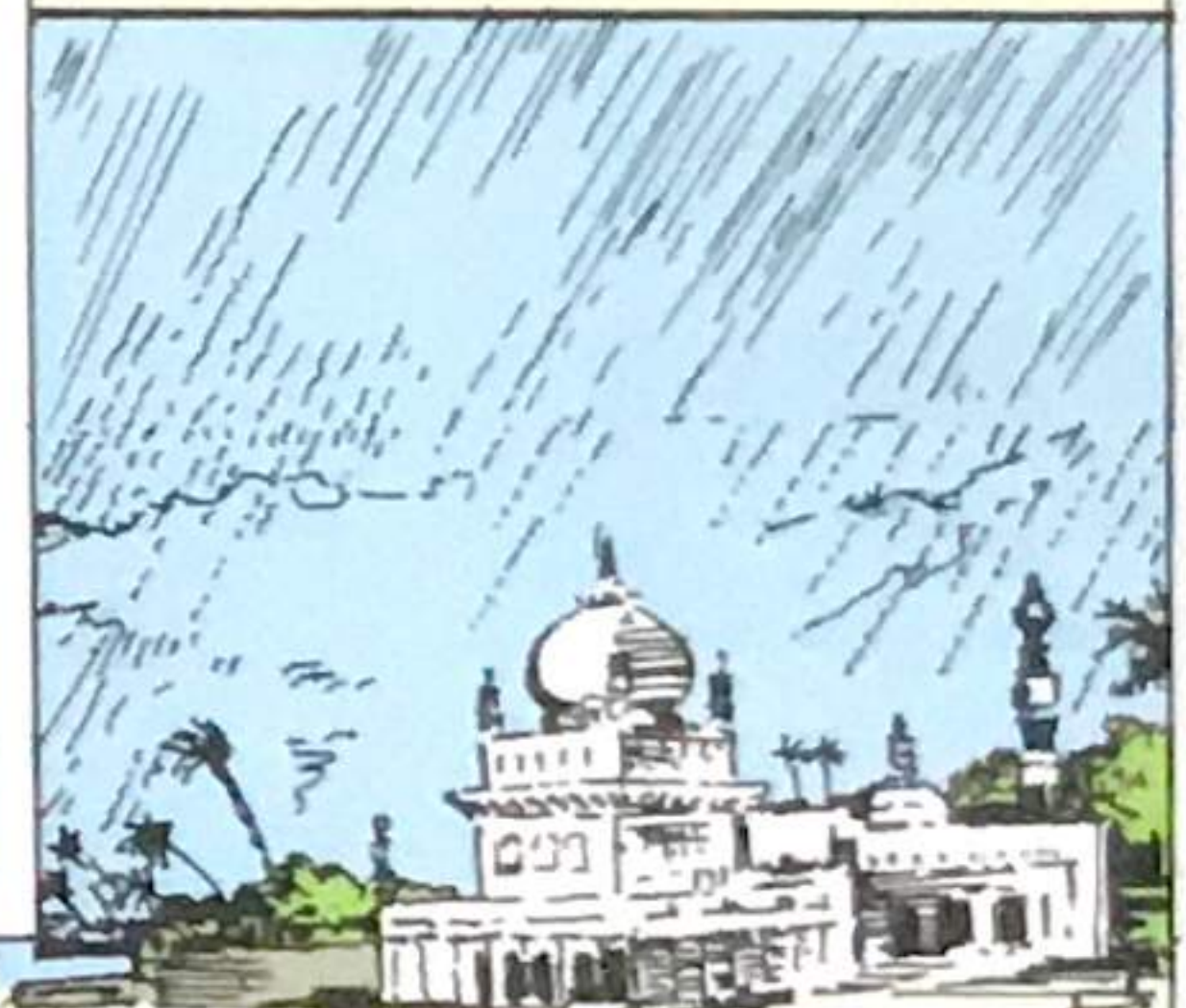
THE ENRAGED SOLDIER SHOT HIM THROUGH THE TEMPLE.



LATER, THE BRITISH DISCOVERED WHO HE WAS.



TIPU WAS BURIED WITH HONOUR BESIDE HIS FATHER. TO ADD TO THE SOLEMNITY OF THE SCENE, THE DAY ENDED WITH A MOST DREADFUL THUNDERSTORM.



WHEN PESHWA BAJI RAO II HEARD OF TIPU'S DEATH, HE EXCLAIMED, "I'VE LOST MY RIGHT ARM!" "WITH THE DEATH OF TIPU," WROTE AN ENGLISH CORRESPONDENT, "THE EMPIRE OF THE EAST IS AT OUR FEET."